A Conspiracy of Dunces

April 15, 2025

The Lake Effect Collective offers a critical look at the Trump administration and the various capitalist and political forces within it.

> [W]e have a conscious opponent, but one subject to a range of contradictions and resulting political limits—although not absolute ones.
>
> - Don Hamerquist, "Three Tendencies on Repression"

After decades of defeat, the revolutionary left's ability to provide prompt assessments of ruling-class composition and strategy has atrophied. The reader can be forgiven for being impressed that Fanon's colonized subject, for example, could keep pace with their far more eventful times: "They live in a doomsday atmosphere and nothing must elude them. This is why they fully understand Phouma and Phoumi, Lumumba and Tschombe, Ahidjo and Moumie, Kenyatta and those introduced from time to time to replace him." Our response to our own tin-pot dictator, by contrast, has been mostly outrage and uncertainty. A recent conclusion to the series of articles chronicling the movement against Cop City offers an impressive benchmark for analyses of ongoing struggles, but many of our descriptions of the ruling bloc still presume that it is a unified, wholly self-conscious force, whose true motives are unknown to us. As an attempt to think in the opposite direction, this essay inventories the Trump administration's coalition of bourgeois class forces, along with the competitive projects and motives that animate them.

POLITICS IN THE PROPHETIC TENSE

A recent article by Daniel Grave asks a crucial question which it then bars itself from answering: "recognizing that we are experiencing shock as a part of a wider strategy isn't really enough. We have to ask *what that strategy is* What goals might this shock and confusion be trying to further?" Grave goes on to "present a theory that seems to click a lot of things into place." He calls it a "conspiracy theory," and that is exactly what it is: an attempt to "attribute a number of apparently disconnected events to the not-so-secret plans of a few powerful people." Because those people are in and adjacent to the federal government, the conspiracy takes on a national and even transnational character; a few characters are taken to serve as narrative leads as everything else falls into place around their open machinations. Such a conspiracy is *not* "normal fare in the real world." The powerful conspire, but under conditions which they do not choose; their plans often conflict with one another in aim and execution. The strategies of various members of the ruling bloc do not add up, without some degree of pruning and violence, to a single strategy.

But Grave presses on. The narrating voice of this conspiracy is Curtis Yarvin, a small-time internet blogger previously known by his username, Mencius Moldbug. Yarvin's writing took shape in a milieu graced by other internet personalities driven by their own manic ambitions; the coterie of 'neoreactionaries' from which he comes boasts names like Nick Land and congregated mostly on sites like Lesswrong, where a kind of circumscribed 'rationalism' took on the old mantle of the early-2000s new atheists. After a decade of cult stardom, more with liberal news outlets than with the tech-right that he was said to effectively command, he has switched from an old blog to a new Substack, where his articles balance free musings with prescriptive advice offered for a monthly fee. (Take one recent article: "after the paywall, I'll explain what to do about the Cathedral instead.")

If one were to believe Yarvin himself, or the various media reports of his influential reach, Mencius Moldbug was an ideological North Star for a steeled core of Trump-administration figures, most importantly Peter Thiel, who groomed JD Vance for his current position as Vice President. The connection between the two latter individuals is fairly

and from Thiel to Vance, is more tenuous, bound up in gossip more than action. Before Yarvin was attributed responsibility for the rise of the Silicon Valley secessionist movement or an empowered Trumpian right, he was counseling "the steel rule of passivism": an "absolute renunciation of official power" intended to "vaccinate" the neoreactionary project against capture by political elites. If his assessment of the value of political participation wavered with attention from the Silicon Valley elite or the emergence of the Trump movement, it is hardly because he is the secret mastermind of either - he is a 'gray mirror' in which any willing patrons in the ruling bloc can recognize themselves, whatever their aspirations. Unfortunately for Yarvin, he gets little in return: whatever the year, none of the forms of government one might find espoused on his blogs - 'neocameralism,' 'patchwork' localism, the total dissolution of the federal government, etc. - are reflected, as yet, in Trump administration policy.

At any rate: liberal outlets were quick to pick up a 2022 essay that Yarvin wrote outlining his ideal iteration of a right-wing seizure of power. As Grave notes, it's full of winks and nods, but this shouldn't paper over their function, which is to absolve Yarvin of having to commit to his own outline. His profile of Trump in the essay need not be discarded too quickly, because the fact that Trump isn't "selling his hotels" - that he's not "all in", as Yarvin puts it - is just as important as any political daisy-chain we could construct.

Many identified the content of Yarvin's essay with the Department of Government Efficiency, initially overseen by both Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, now chaired only by the former. Like many other supposed identities between Yarvinite plans and federal follow-through, though, it's more a semantic similarity than a technical one. Trump is not ready to, nor has he begun to, "take 100%" of state power. DOGE has not fired every federal employee, it has applied the principles of big business, as practiced by Musk, to the federal government, catastrophic miscalculations and all. Yarvin says: "Once duly elected, in office [the administration] will not just caper in front of the cameras (in fact, it will not talk at all to the legacy press) - it will spread its wings, and become a beautiful governing butterfly." Readers can judge whether the new administration has spent more time 'governing' than 'capering in front of the cameras.'

What else did Yarvin demand? A restructuring of the executive branch to put a "CEO" in charge. Like they were reading from an ancient scroll, liberals were quick to point to Elon Musk as proof that the prophecy was being fulfilled. But in "The Butterfly Revolution", the "CEO" plays a very specific role, which is formally similar to the chief executive of a business, not defined by the title of the person who runs it: he "will run the executive branch without any interference from the Congress or courts, probably also taking over state and local governments." Trump would be an ideological and not operational leader. Again, this has not taken place. Grave's article, though, uses Yarvin's essay to predict that the Trump administration is planning to install a constitutional monarchy in the United States, with the "con artist" and "moral monster" in the Presidency as its king.

Admittedly, a great deal that Yarvin wants, the Trump administration has provided. Elon Musk and Peter Thiel are the practical incarnations of the ideological morass out of which Yarvin writes, and DOGE cuts to staff, federal oversight, and nonprofit and humanities funding has, along with the administration's assault on unproductive sectors of higher education and high-profile social movements around the country, advanced his project more than it has stymied it. But the specific character of the Trump administration cannot be found in the machinations of shadowy figures at the margins of its scene. Instead, it's worth examining the fragile political alliances that happen to prevail at the moment, which add up to a rough image of the administration's class character.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION?

Donald Trump is the schizophrenic mouthpiece for a contradictory coalition of capitalist interests. Its members include Silicon Valley elites, recently enriched by new volatile and speculative markets and kept afloat by government subsidy; capitalist representatives of a defense industry which increasingly overlaps with the Silicon Valley bourgeoisie; landlords from national firms like Blackstone; and representatives of the FIRE sector. Individual capitalists often straddle lines between categories - the Silicon Valley nouveau-riche, who will be the focus of this essay, typically have one foot in tech and defense, the other in finance. The old agrarian populists, who were prominent during Trump's first campaign season but quickly shelved once he entered office, are sideline detractors from the Trump movement, though they often give themselves a similar amount of credit to Yarvin when describing the trajectory of the past decade. Steve Bannon, for example, identifies the Trump administration's resident billionaires with an "oligarchy" and "technofeudalism" at odds with his own populist nationalism: "In technofeudalism, you're just a digital serf. Your value as a human being, as someone built and made in the image and likeness of God and endowed with the life spirit of the Holy Spirit — they don't consider that. Everything is digital to them." "They don't believe in this country. They believe in this country right now because it protects them and provides some benefits to them."

On the outer layer of this convoluted process sits Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, staffed solely by X, Tesla and SpaceX veterans, Thiel- and Vance-adjacent characters, Stephen Miller's wife and a handful of college-age interns. Clustered around Musk's DOGE are billionaires from his early days as a Silicon Valley aspirant: Peter Thiel, Marc Andreesen, Balaji Srinivasan and a handful of others, distributed between tech and

969 3K 13K 1M

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -
@JailLawSpeak · Apr 12

2025 nothing the government does is truly new. The oppression, the exploitation, it's always been there > some call it intentional loopholes. What's different now? The cracks in the system are glaring, and its injustices are more visible than ever

1 20 39 1K

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -
@JailLawSpeak · Feb 16

"Prisons are designed to dehumanize & mentally break individuals down. Prison itself is an act of extreme violence perpetrated against every person who walks through its gates - regardless of guilt or innocence!" - Sundiata Jawanza

Long Live The

#PrisonersHumanRights

0 32 63 3K

FREE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Customized by topic, sourced from any news, website, feed, social media, etc. Mail or CORRLINKS/JPAY midwestb2p@gmail.com. For more information on subscribing, write:

Midwest Books to Prisoners Newsletter Program
1321 N Milwaukee PMB 460
Chicago, IL 60622

telecommunications, finance, and the defense industry. The menagerie of Heritage Foundation drafters and billionaire backers that has trailed in their wake dovetails with, and does not simply orchestrate, the new administration's political goals. This is a complex machine without a clearly-demarcated driver's seat, and taken honestly, the maneuverings of its participants look more like matter filling a void than they do a conscious plot by the nation's elites. Several plans are at work - often more than one per 'camp' - and many are simply incompatible.

Mar-a-Lago Accord? - One scheme aligns the Vice President with a portion of the DOGE billionaires: what the Silicon Valley nouveau-riche have taken to calling the "Mar-a-Lago Accord." Vance is the mouthpiece for this project, which intends to weaken the US dollar, enabling debt repayments by other countries to delay a global default, and possibly permitting an end to the US dollar's status as foreign reserve currency. This plan has important allies in the White House, including Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Steve Miran, who coined its name in a 2024 essay, and who recently outlined its rationale in a speech at the Hudson Institute:

> [O]ur financial dominance comes at a cost. While it is true that demand for dollars has kept our borrowing rates low, it has also kept currency markets distorted. This process has placed undue burdens on our firms and workers, making their products and labor uncompetitive on the global stage, and forcing a decline of our manufacturing workforce by over a third since its peak and a reduction in our share of world manufacturing production of 40%.

This implies a necessary challenge to the US dollar's reserve currency status, which Miran claims has "caused persistent currency distortions and contributed... to unsustainable trade deficits." Those trade deficits look like economic restructuring which displaced fixed capital to markets with lower-priced commodity labor power, beginning in the seventies, but which have also propped up a new monetary order, or, as Miran puts it, have "facilitate[d] non-Americans trading with each other." A shift in the opposite direction would happen even as Chinese fixed capital struggles to reterritorialize to Africa, and 'premature deindustrialization' creates simultaneous surplus populations and ballooning service sectors in countries targeted by late-breaking foreign investment.

As Miran's conclusions imply, potentially-disastrous outcomes abound, especially because the last five decades of the world economic order have depended on a strong dollar to offset declining profitability with monetarily-cheapened wages abroad. If this faction successfully erodes US dollar hegemony, and especially if the world shifts away from the US dollar as global reserve currency, it's unclear what would replace it. (The Chinese Yuan does not float on the foreign currency exchange and Chinese monetary policy depends on its being periodically devalued, as is occurring at present, despite a weakening dollar.)

Is this project the secret motive of the entire Trump administration? Recent internal controversy over the first battery of tariffs - borne out in Miran's own speech - suggests not.

Insider Trading - Steve Miran tells listeners that "[t]he best outcome is one in which America continues to create global peace and prosperity and remain the reserve provider, and other countries not only participate in reaping the benefits, but they also participate in bearing the costs." At present, a shift away from the dollar as reserve currency is not backed by the chief of the CEA, but certain ameliorative efforts are. (Interestingly, Miran, the author of the definitive essay on the 'Mar-a-Lago accord,' is not empowered to pursue it openly at the moment.) What does "burden sharing" look like to the White House?

One option would be to take the tariffs without retaliating, averting trade wars and further global economic disorder. With the tariffs' reduction, outside of the Chinese case, to ten percent, this seems to be the aggregate consensus, though that could shift. Miran's next three options involve foreign investment in American reshoring and specific industries: "they can stop unfair and harmful trading practices by opening their markets and buying more from America", "they can boost defense spending and procurement from the US, buying more US-made goods, and taking strain off our servicemembers and creating jobs here" or "they can invest in and install factories in America" to avoid tariffs in general. The final option is the most simple: pay up. "They could simply write checks to the Treasury that help us finance global public goods."

It is unclear what the initial rationale for the massive first battery of tariffs was, but by the time that Trump reduced all but China's to 10%, the scheme had turned into blatant market manipulation. Trump announced a sweeping set of tariffs on April 2 at 3:00 PM, CST:

> My fellow Americans, this is Liberation Day. We've been waiting for a long time. April second, 2025 will forever be remembered as the day American industry was reborn, the day America's destiny was reclaimed, and the day that we began to make America wealthy again... For decades our country has been looted, pillaged, raped and plundered by nations near and far, both friend and foe alike. American steelworkers, autoworkers, farmers and skilled craftsmen - we have a lot of them here with us today - they really suffered gravely, they watched in anguish as foreign leaders have stolen our jobs, foreign cheaters have ransacked our factories, and foreign scavengers have torn apart our once-beautiful American dream.

Turmoil followed, and recession indicators piled up, concluding with a frenetic bond market as countries moved to sell off US reserve assets. Trump then took to Truth Social at 9:30 on April 9th, advising that "NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!" Three hours later, just past noon CST, he posted

to Truth Social announcing the non-China tariffs were reduced, the market opened back up, and it rallied - how briefly has yet to be seen. In a subsequent Oval Office meeting, he went around a circle of billionaires and tallied their profits from buying at the trough of the initial dip: "This is Charles Schwab. It's not just a company, it's actually an individual. He made two and a half billion today, and he made nine hundred million." The crowd present in the Oval Office laughed.

Beyond standard-fare corruption there is not pre-existing unity among the various members of the Trump administration on any of these questions. On April 8, Peter Navarro laid out a plan for the reshoring of American production: "there's gonna be plenty of jobs for robots, plenty of jobs for humans" at the domestic Apple factories. Four days later, Trump cut tariffs to phones. The acting body has no idea what its head is thinking.

Defense Industry - Another faction of the administration includes Silicon Valley's defense industry startup Palantir. Miran's speech effectively attempted to force other countries to buy American defense industry contracts, which would take pressure *n o t* off of "our servicemembers" but instead off of the capitalists whose firms stand to benefit from a preferential market (and, it stands to reason, a volatile international order further polarized around a US-China trade war).

But the motives of these actors, even at Palantir, are internally incongruous. The aspirations of Shyam Sankar, CTO of Palantir and vocal supporter of the DOGE shadow-cabinet, are outlined in an article from October of 2024, called "The Defense Reformation." In a meandering series of theses, Sankar outlines an in-house mythology wherein the great leaders of American industry are artificially hemmed in by federal oversight and "legacy" firms are kept lazy by subsidy; he calls for the privatization of the defense industry and an end to the disbursements that have kept its leading firms artificially profitable despite routine failures and constantly-missed deadlines:

> Cost-reimbursed independent research and development (IRAD) is an indulgence. It isn't real R&D. Cost-type contracting enables contractors to play with house money (reimbursed by taxpayers). Private R&D in the commercial world far outstrips government R&D. The 1960s are gone. Companies must invest their own capital — their asses must be in the hot seat if we want innovation. Apple didn't charge you for their failed self-driving car in your last iPhone purchase. Contractors shouldn't be able to charge you when their lab experiments run amok, either.

On a number of points, Sankar's essay agrees with the rest of the Silicon Valley ideologists: "We seem to generally appreciate that Usain Bolt is more than a generational talent... [b]ut this is also true for Tom Mueller, Elon Musk, Palmer Luckey, Brian Schimpf, Ryan Tseng, and the Founders at the First Breakfast." It aims to break with "the communist conformity that's slowing us down" by liberating the 'leaders' of various Silicon Valley firms from specious oversight and cost-plus subsidies... including, of course, Sankar himself. This is of a piece with Yarvin's reference to a CEO figure capable of conducting the affairs of the nation, but beneath this surface ideological agreement lie intractable tactical divergences with other blocs of Sankar's class, most importantly regarding federal awards and subsidy.

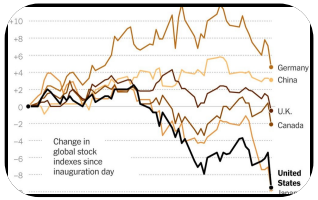
Shyam Sankar's vision of the privatization of the defense industry demands the introduction of real competitive pressures to its market. But Elon Musk's business model, Marc Andreesen's, and even in certain ventures Thiel's are wholly incompatible with this demand. Even restricting its application to the defense industry, Musk's famously disaster-prone and otherwise-unprofitable SpaceX is increasingly integrated with the defense industry; Palantir has depended on multiple billions in federal awards over its two decades of existence, and every notable AI venture has partnered with agencies at the Pentagon in recent months. Federal disbursements have provided the space and forgiveness necessary to launch many of the firms whose representatives now cluster around the President. This is why Sankar's vision hasn't been carried out in full - not because of insufficient sway in a mahogany boardroom, but because of the bottom lines which determine the decisions made in those boardrooms. Its selective integration into US monetary policy, with Miran demanding other countries buy American defense industry contracts, only underscores its congruence with a foundational myth of the Trump administration: the reshoring of American industrial production, in particular its "Defense Industrial Base."

As accords with their industry and class interests, the defense industry entrants at Palantir promise to "resurrect the American Industrial Base" by breaking the monopolies of the five major defense firms: Lockheed Martin, Boeing, RTX, Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics. This matches a broader promise by the Trump administration to reshore American production, one that's persisted since Trump's first inauguration, when he promised public works and defense manufacture would return to rural America - to popular acclaim among his crowd. But beyond what these businessmen say - do they mean any of it? Does Navarro, or Miran, or Trump?

Hopefully not. Should there be elections in three and a half years, onlooking capitalists can reasonably presume that whatever tariffs are put in place under the current administration would not outlive it. Fixed capital investments are financed, like any other venture by a firm, by referring to the investment's projected revenue, and American labor is simply far more expensive than labor anywhere else. If Trump's shadow cabinet wants to bring back American manufacture, they will have to find ways to rig or suspend future elections, and to do so in ways legible to would-be investors. Democratic processualism has, so far, chilled references to a third Trump campaign from all but the Bannonite fringe. It is far more likely that this is, instead of some nefarious scheme to seize power,

The solution is not to try to go back to neoliberalism, but to abolish capitalism.

https://crimethinc.com/work



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 2

The fact that Elon Musk's attempt to buy the Wisconsin Supreme Court failed despite $25+ million in propaganda and bribery shows that there is still a force more powerful than greed.

But everyone knows that force is hatred of fascist billionaires—not support for the Democratic Party.

The Democrats represent authoritarianism lite. It was their neoliberal policies that concentrated so much power in Elon Musk's hands in the first place.

To abolish the structures that produce billionaire supervillains, we will have to do a lot more than vote. We will have to bring about fundamental shifts in how we relate to resources. This will require grassroots networks taking direct action.

https://crimethinc.com/becomeananar

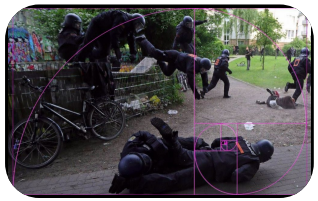
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 1

The Spiral of Police Violence: A Work of Art Criticism

https://crimethinc.com/spiralofviolenc

This photograph taken during the 2017 G20 summit truly captures the timeless spirit of policing.

Our art critic in residence explores the compositional elements that give the photograph its expressive power.



Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -
@JailLawSpeak · Jul 16

Mutual Aid can be directed directly towards the inside people led Prisoners Human Rights and Jailhouse Lawyers networks/projects by cash app $ arebelsworld or Venmo @ arebelsworld

10 86 137

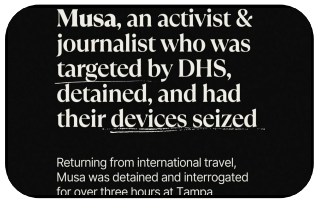
Samuel Sinyangwe
@samswey · Apr 15

Notice how the names of the ICE agents who disappear people are never made public or included in media reports.

1K 5K 33K 506K

The CCR is on bsky (@ccrjustice.org)
@theCCR · Apr 16

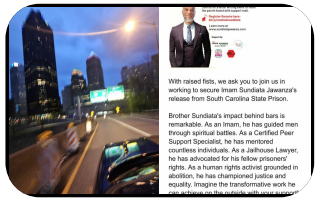
BREAKING: Black and Muslim journalist, filmmaker, cultural worker, and activist who was unlawfully detained by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and had personal items confiscated has penned a statement in response to the device seizure.


Musa, an activist & journalist who was targeted by DHS, detained, and had their devices seized
Returning from international travel, Musa was detained and interrogated for over three hours at Tampa

4 83 142 6K

Disrupting prison pipelines
@RocsHouse · Apr 16

Pittsburgh
Letter writing event tonight for Sundiata Jawanza. Visit:



0 3 3 1K

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -
@JailLawSpeak · Apr 14

Some people inside have made comments, and JLS can flat out tell you that if Americans are moved to El Salvador and piled into cells, expect it to be very bloody. #burntheprisons

1 4 12 962

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -
@JailLawSpeak · Apr 14

He's saying the home grown are next. This means us, then you!

0 9 13 749

i Expose Racists & Pedos
@SeeRacists · Apr 11

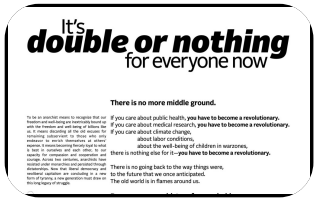
‼BREAKING: A spokesperson for Karmelo Anthony's family says they are unable to leave their home after receiving graphic death threats from RACISTS—who also deliberately leaked the family's address online, putting their lives in serious danger!

The update comes as Anthony's defense attorneys are trying to get his bond reduced as his GiveSendGo surpasses $341,000.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THESE RACISTS TO DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THIS CASE.

in war zones, the price of groceries —you have to become a revolutionary.

https://crimethinc.com/posters/its-double-or-nothing-for-everyone-now


It's
double or nothing
for everyone now
There is no more middle ground.
If you care about public health, you have to become a revolutionary.
If you care about medical research, you have to become a revolutionary.
If you care about climate change,
about labor conditions,
about the well-being of children in warzones,
there is nothing else for it—you have to become a revolutionary.
There is no going back to the way things were,
to the future that we once anticipated.
The old world is in flames around us.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 6

"Before 1914, the earth had belonged to all. People went where they wished and stayed as long as they pleased. There were no permits, no visas, and it always gives me pleasure to astonish the young by telling them that before 1914, I travelled from Europe to India and America without a passport and without ever having seen one."

-Stefan Zweig

Borders as we know them are a recent concoction.

The passport system as we know it dates to the First World War. ICE was founded in 2003 as part of the so-called "War on Terror," a disaster for freedom in every way.

These institutions are neither timeless nor beneficial nor inevitable.

https://crimethinc.com/borders

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 5

Organizers are billing the April 5 demonstrations as the biggest protests since Trump returned to power.

Great.

But what's the strategy? Trump will not leave power willingly. Mere petitioning is pointless.

How do you topple an autocrat?

First, identify a segment of society that is not permanently committed to his reign, but whose support is essential to keeping him in power.

Analyze their interests. Identify what is more important to them than keeping him in power. Think about their vulnerabilities.

Next, identify a form of activity that could put that segment of the autocrat's supporters in a situation in which they will prefer to stop supporting him.

Engage in that activity—whatever it takes.

Repeat as needed until enough sectors of society shift their commitments.

All of this occurred in summer 2020.

Trump concentrated federal agents in Portland to try to show his supporters in the capitalist class that he could impose order to preserve business as usual. Because he failed —thanks to courageous resistance in Portland—capitalists did not support his 2021 coup.

If we don't want to live under the autocratic rule of Donald Trump or his successors forever, we have to use direct action to break up his support base and force those who have remained passive to take a stand against him.

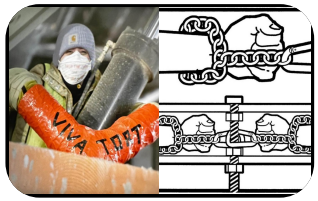
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 4

A Demonstrator's Guide to Lockdowns and Blockades

https://crimethinc.com/lockdowns

A complete guide to assembling and employing lockboxes and other means of blockading.

There is a broad spectrum of tactics to choose from between simply holding up a protest sign and setting things on fire. If you are looking to intensify a pressure campaign, to block traffic, or simply to stand your ground more effectively under pressure, consider these means of holding space over a long period of time.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 4

Like the toppling of Bashar al-Assad in Syria, the ouster of South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol should give pause to all mercenaries who sell their capacity to inflict violence to whoever happens to control the government.

If you do harm to people in the service of a despot, and the despot loses power, what do you think will happen to you?

> Yoon's presidential office, only a handful of his supporters remained at a demonstration that was supposed to last all day. Some wore hats that said "Make Korea Great Again" or "Stop the Steal." Workers were taking down scaffolding, and dozens of plastic chairs had been

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 3

At the turn of the century, during the movement against capitalist globalization, we used to say that it was a travesty that products could move across national borders more easily than human beings.

The solution is not to impose more controls on products as well as on human beings.

The tariffs are not intended to benefit the United States economy, nor the capitalist class as a whole. They chiefly benefit Donald Trump and his lackeys, functioning as a tool with which they can punish adversaries and negotiate for personal gain.

This is a hallmark of authoritarian rule.

The arbitrary and autocratic state policy exemplified by these tariffs is emerging as a consequence of the tremendous disparities in wealth and power that the neoliberal world order produced.

simply a means to justify the preferential treatment of Trump's bourgeois supporters, helping the new entrants in the defense industry pick up the pieces of a cracked-up American economy, rather than a real attempt to resurrect the white working class via a repetition of the postwar boom. (All efforts to the latter effect will produce unpredictable, chaotic situations which may ultimately be beneficial to aspiring revolutionaries, but which will also, at present, skew in Pete Hegseth's direction.)

Data Barons - What about the rest of the Silicon Valley bourgeoisie? Many of these telecommunications holding companies and firms are grouped under the "Magnificent 7" stocks: Apple, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Alphabet (the parent company of Google), Amazon, Meta (which owns Facebook and Instagram), and Musk's Tesla - largely survivors of the dot-com bubble. Aside from the consumer products and digital storefronts for which they're better known, these conglomerates and firms supply other rentier services (Amazon's web services division) and fixed capital in data centers used to run large language models ('AI'), maintain and sort databases, facilitate cloud computing, and shore up Silicon Valley's vanity projects. The Mag 7 companies are just as important funding sources for the Silicon Valley nouveau riche as federal subsidy, and they are all involved with federal projects clustered around the defense industry. As a result, their data centers are marketed for their current use with AI models, but 'hyperscaling' need not be restricted in use to commercial computing.

Popular reporting about these telecommunications companies emphasizes the utopian, technocratic visions of their founders and Silicon Valley backers. But as before, the mirage of some AI-driven, corporate-run utopia is far less important than the real prospects of the firms' concrete investments in facilities, processing power and communications infrastructure. A recent DARPA project on Chicago's South Side flags a more likely future: Palo Alto startup PsiQuantum's computing campus, advertised to computer science students, liberal investors and local property-owners as a new beachhead in technological progress. The gigantic computing center will employ few, help fewer, raise local property values and expel renters, pollute the economically-abandoned neighborhood, and its computing power will be put to political and military purposes. The privately-operated data centers are a similar 'dual use' technology: Biden's first push for further AI and data center development passed the task off on the Department of Energy and Department of Defense; as the project has continued over the past few months, the Trump administration has solicited investment from Altman's OpenAI, along with its competitors in SoftBank and Oracle, and has directly funded a five hundred billion dollar 'Stargate' project with OpenAI, SoftBank, NVIDIA, Microsoft and others.

Cutting through the cruft and speculation: the billionaires who manage these companies rely on massive federal subsidy, which has purchased their compliance - sometimes freely given - with broader federally-guided defense industry projects. This is one point where the varied projects of the technology and telecommunications giants come together: more federal subsidy and more fixed capital with variable, adaptable uses, secured by Silicon Valley's new entrants into the big bourgeoisie by preferential treatment by the administration. On the one hand, this is still a competitive market in the Trump administration, hence Sam Altman's marginal role in recent months and OpenAI's faltering performance since the Deepseek fiasco; on the other hand, this competitive quality of federal-private partnerships through DOGE-adjacency and backchanneling seems to be the point of the new arrangement: to force Trump's bourgeois allies to vie for his favor, giving him an artificially-maintained upper hand and allowing him to perform, in effect, the role of any capitalist state: both encouraging conflict between individual capitalists and maintaining the relative integrity of the market in general. (This role does not extend to his foreign relations or fiscal policy - but the capitalists who will profit most from recent chaos are the DOGE clique, artificially privileged over the other transnational capitals with interests and headquarters housed in the United States. The notion of an "American firm" might have been in decline for the two decades prior to Trump's inauguration, but DOGE, as a coordinating body and a formalization of Trump's prior back-channel relations with Silicon Valley billionaires, has given it new meaning.)

Loose Ends - A few important corners of the administration are missing from this list. The landlords are spread out between Blackrock and other asset managers on one hand and big agricultural firms on the other. The latter have their own internal conflicts with other, less-capitalized farms, all of whom have to fight on the top end over continued subsidies and on the bottom end against their workforce, especially in the Southwest, where farm labor is far more Latino and organized than elsewhere. The farmer subsidies, and the image of the self-made small proprietor, were the backbone of the old Trump campaign's image, but as his early attempt to freeze agricultural subsidies showed, they no longer play the same role in the movement's messaging or self-understanding. Instead of Bannon, Tom Cotton and the old guard, who represented a Dixiecrat conservatism at home in the American South and in the rural regions of the Midwest, Elon and the rest of the Silicon Valley bourgeoisie fulfill a role demanded by what DuBois called the "American assumption": "that wealth is mainly the result of its owner's effort and that any average worker can by thrift become a capitalist." The nouveau-riche Silicon Valley billionaires, like Trump during his own first term, occupy a contradictory position in the discourse and self-understanding of the Trump voter: they simultaneously hang, suspended in mid-air, at the most distant station from their supporters, termed geniuses and supra-generational talents; but in the background, no matter how

ridiculous it might appear to us, evinced at every rally where they appear and every public event which opens up for questions and answers, they are simultaneously one of the people: proof, in the last instance, of an essential identity between the supporter and their bourgeois representative.

But the American assumption emerged "contemporary with the Cotton Kingdom, which was its most sinister contradiction." The complex interaction of these axes - bourgeois and proletarian, white worker and nonwhite worker, and, increasingly, citizen and noncitizen, patriot and dually-loyal traitor, concrete laborer and out-of-touch activist - is what currently seems to 'polarize' American civil society. It is what makes arriving at summary judgments of Trump's electorate so difficult - not only is this new wave of right-wing retributive violence outpacing and outmoding our old concepts and schemas, it is taking shape in an effectively self-contained information ecosystem; we only regularly encounter it downstream of algorithmic sorting on social media platforms, or simply don't unless we poke around on other forums. Who uses Truth Social, much less Lesswrong or SomethingAwful? Does Silicon Valley's tech-entrepreneur culture seem contiguous with our urban, liberal sensibilities? The new Trump administration should force a serious, sustained reflection on the left-liberal media ecosystem's total separation from anything other than a vanishing layer of professionals, students, and other members of the mediating middle classes: we talk a lot, for example, about the 'white working class,' but sustained investigations of rural political economy are slim. The truth is that there are whole separate worlds nestled throughout America, partitioned along racial and class lines. Our failure to breach between these spheres reflects a combination of subjective failures and an objective hardening of the complex that we've previously termed the color line, but if we intend to make the most of crises to come, we have to start by refusing to compose ourselves along the lines handed down by the ruling bloc.

The good news is that, while we don't have readymade class self-consciousness, neither do our enemies. Cracks are forming in the DOGE clique, and between certain members of that clique and the President's cabinet. Miller and Homan's border policies caused brief friction with the tech bourgeoisie, expressed in an argument within the right wing over H1-B visas. On this point the demand of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs for cheap, skilled labor power contradicts the Miller-Homan fantasy of a sealed border and a self-sufficient white nation - but the coalition held when Musk backed down and admitted that the program was "broken and needed major reform" to "mak[e] it materially more expensive to hire from overseas than domestically." Musk himself may be in line for a demotion after a failed ploy at voter manipulation during a Wisconsin state Supreme Court election, and faces mounting pressure to retire from shareholders. Sam Altman, OpenAI's self-styled guru, has been absent from the scene since Chinese AI venture Deepseek matched the performance of his ChatGPT at a fraction of the computing and monetary cost of the latter; his departure was accompanied by a bitter suit against Musk, alleging unfair competitive practices. These divisions extend inward, to Trump's cabinet: on several occasions, the most put-together right-wing operatives of the new administration have attempted to straightforwardly ignore court orders to cease activity until its constitutionality had been established or disproven - but Trump has broken ranks with this plan, contradicting Vance's early attempt to ignore a circuit judge during the first wave of funding freezes. As Palantir CEO Alex Karp recently told CNN:

> We love disruption, and whatever's good for America will be good for Americans and very good for Palantir. Disruption, at the end of the day, exposes things that aren't working. There will be ups and downs. There's a revolution. Some people are going to get their heads cut off. We're expecting to see really unexpected things and to win.

This is the throughline that has characterized previous compositions and decompositions of the Trump movement's ruling bloc - during Trump's first term, it appeared almost entirely unplanned, with Trump often hiring and firing staff based on personal loyalty and malleability. His second administration has introduced a new body, DOGE, which is intended to streamline the destructive measures necessary to bring the executive branch under his control, and to ensure compliance across other institutions in Washington. And as a result, through sheer force of complementary business interests, the ruling clique has held together for months. Disintegrating impulses have often been as personal as they have been impersonal and objective: if the ruling ideas of our society are those of our ruling class, the dreams and delusions of its current, manic vanguard are no exception. Musk's anxious bombast and over-eager fealty to the Trump movement are not a sign of personal disintegration or an imbalanced life. His pathetic, awkward character; his petulant outbursts and lies; his use of sex-selective IVF to produce genius heirs capable of saving Western civilization (a scheme so plainly neurotic it would make Freud blush); even his business ventures like SpaceX, motivated by his own desire to go to Mars which, at fifty-three, he knows will never take place - are all evidence of his perfect, hermetic integration into an irrational, murderous, vertiginous world in which the most powerful people alive are appendages of a suicidal, bulimic Moloch gorging itself to death for nothing. Adorno said that becoming human - a subject of capitalist society - required the accumulated violence of history and prehistory, millennia of terror and years of trauma sedimented to form the conscious ego. But how much damage is necessary to become whatever Elon Musk is?

WHERE IS IT GOING?

For his part, Curtis Yarvin has come out against the new administration

to combat anti-Semitism around the world and in the United States, in addition to efforts to protect Jewish students from

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 11

"Abolish ICE" sounded like a radical demand to Democrats, though ICE itself only dates to 2003.

Today, it should be clear to even the most deluded liberals that if you establish institutions for the sole purpose of brutalizing people, authoritarians will inevitably use them to consolidate power.

The Trump administration is intentionally circulating photographs of dehumanized prisoners crowded into bunks reminiscent of the famous photographs from within the death camp at Buchenwald during the Holocaust. Spectacular violence is central to the fascist program, which hinges on accustoming people to spectatorship and passivity.

https://crimethinc.com/sacrificialvioler

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 11

We've added a Romanian version of our famous "Gender Subversion" poster alongside the English, German, Italian, Spanish, and Ukrainian versions.

https://crimethinc.com/posters/subver genului

Wherever you live, whatever language you speak, you stand to gain from the abolition of prescribed gender roles.

♥🏴♥

FIECARE BĂIAT CARE ESTE ÎMPOVĂRAT DE AȘTEPTAREA CONSTANTĂ DE A ȘTI TOTUL, EXISTĂ O FATĂ OBOSITĂ DE FAPTUL CĂ OAMENII NU AU ÎNCREDERE ÎN INTELIGENȚA EI. PENTRU FIECARE FATĂ CARE S-A SĂTURAT SĂ FIE NUMITĂ PREA SENSIBILĂ, EXISTĂ UN BĂIAT CARE SE TEME SĂ FIE BLÂND, SĂ PLÂNGĂ. PENTRU FIECARE BĂIAT PENTRU CARE COMPETIȚIA ESTE SINGURUL MOD DE A-ȘI DOVEDI MASCULINITATEA, EXISTĂ O FATĂ CARE ESTE NUMITĂ NEFEMININĂ ATUNCI CÂND CONCUREAZĂ.
PENTRU FIECARE FATĂ CARE S-A SĂTURAT SĂ STEA

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers

@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 10

ICE posted—and then deleted—this advertisement on Instagram and the fascist-owned platform X/Twitter, announcing themselves as the thought police stopping ideas from entering the United States.

It's not just about attacking undocumented people, or immigrants, or dissidents—they aim to prevent thought itself.

If Hitler's Nazi Party were still in power today, its Instagram feed would look exactly like the ICE Instagram: a series of photographs of captured, brutalized human beings.

ICE represents fascism. Resist by all means.

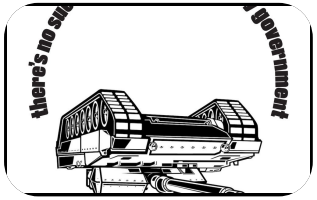
https://crimethinc.com/MahmoudKhal

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 10

We've added a new "ink lite" version of our zine "There's No Such Thing as Revolutionary Government," for those who want to make the case that the key to liberation is not to seize state power but to abolish it... without using up too much toner.

https://crimethinc.com/zines/theres-no-such-thing-as-revolutionary-government

Please print and distribute!



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 9

"This Hotel Is a Detention Center"
An Account from the Front Lines of the Fight against Deportations in 1999 France

https://crimethinc.com/Ibis1999

"As the first brave souls climb through the window and into the hallway, it becomes clear that the cops have something else in mind. They begin to push and shove people, trying to muscle them down the hallway and toward the stairs. Preferring to stick to the original plan, our comrades meet the baton swings with kicks and blows..."

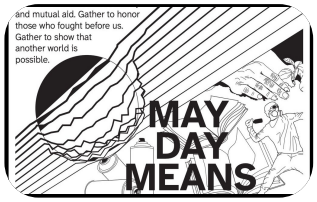
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 9

May Day Means Resistance: A Call to Take Action on May First 🏴

https://crimethinc.com/MayDay2025

This May Day, gather in defiance of tyranny and oppression. Gather to create communities based in solidarity and mutual aid. Gather with everyone who wants a better life. Gather to honor those who fought before us. Gather to show that another world is possible.

We've prepared a poster design to support you in organizing and promoting events in your community, along with a list of suggestions about what you could organize.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 7

The old world is in flames around us.

There is no more middle ground. If you care about public health—if you care about medical research—if you care about climate change, labor conditions, the well-being of children

which they will now use to impose Trump's agenda on us.

The movement to abolish the police was our best hope of countering the forces via which autocrats like Trump will impose fascism.

It still is.

"The only possible way out of this mess is to develop the ability to wield power on our own terms, horizontally and autonomously, stripping the police of legitimacy and shattering the illusion that they are invincible. This has been the common thread between practically all the significant movements of the past several years."

We said that in 2014.

crimethinc.com/cwc/bluefuse

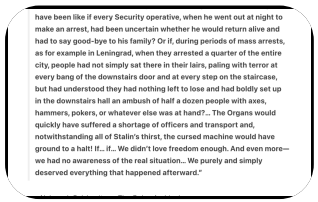
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 15

Today, Donald Trump made it clear that he intends to have people deported to El Salvador without due process, including United States citizens.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn has something to say to us about this moment.

"And how we burned in the camps later, thinking: What would things have been like if every Security operative, when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive and had to say good-bye to his family? Or if, during periods of mass arrests, as for example in Leningrad, when they arrested a quarter of the entire city, people had not simply sat there in their lairs, paling with terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing left to lose and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, pokers, or whatever else was at hand?… The Organs would quickly have suffered a shortage of officers and transport and, notwithstanding all of Stalin's thirst, the cursed machine would have ground to a halt! If… if… We didn't love freedom enough. And even more—we had no awareness of the real situation… We purely and simply deserved everything that happened afterward."

– Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago


have been like if every Security operative, when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive and had to say good-bye to his family? Or if, during periods of mass arrests, as for example in Leningrad, when they arrested a quarter of the entire city, people had not simply sat there in their lairs, paling with terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing left to lose and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, pokers, or whatever else was at hand?… The Organs would quickly have suffered a shortage of officers and transport and, notwithstanding all of Stalin's thirst, the cursed machine would have ground to a halt! If… if… We didn't love freedom enough. And even more—we had no awareness of the real situation… We purely and simply deserved everything that happened afterward."

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 14

Every year, alongside many others, we observe April 15 as Steal Something from Work Day—an opportunity to reflect on the causes and implications of workplace theft.

https://crimethinc.com/StealfromWork

This year, we turn our focus to so-called "Robin Hood employees"—those who steal from their workplaces in order to share with others. Loss prevention professionals allege that Robin Hood employees inflict losses on corporations much more efficiently than ordinary shoplifters or employees who only steal for their own benefit.

In other words, when it comes to redistributing wealth, the most effective approach is not to take things for yourself, but to share them with everyone.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 14

The billionaires know that fossil fuels and power-intensive AI are rendering the earth uninhabitable. That's what their bunkers are for.

But even more than bunkers, they're investing in surveillance and repression.

They're not afraid of the end of the world.

They're afraid we'll try to save it.

https://crimethinc.com/Climate2024

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 12

The fact that the Trump administration seeks to deport Mahmoud Khalil solely on account of his beliefs shows what a lie their rhetoric about "free speech" was.

Remember how Elon Musk claimed he bought Twitter for "free speech," then immediately banned us while reinstating Nazis?

As we wrote in 2017, this is not a dialogue.

They intend to force their agenda on us. That's what all the guns are for, what the police and drones and surveillance cameras are for, what the FBI and CIA and NSA are for, what all those laws and courts and executive orders are for.

A dialogue—from which some of the participants can be deported at any time? A dialogue—in which one side keeps disappearing the other side? A dialogue—in which a few people own all the networks and platforms?

We're not in a dialogue. We're in a power struggle. They hope that we won't realize this until it's too late.

If we succeed in blocking their hideous plans, they will accuse us of breaking off dialogue, of violating their free speech. They will try to lure us back into conversation, playing for time until they need no more stratagems to keep us passive while they establish tyranny.

If freedom is important to you—if you care about all the people marked for death and deportation—don't just talk. Act.

https://crimethinc.com/notadialogue

Press, does not allege any criminal conduct by Khalil, a legal permanent U.S. resident and graduate student who served as spokesperson for campus activists last year during large demonstrations against Israel's treatment of Palestinians and the war in Gaza.
Rather, Rubio wrote Khalil could be expelled for his beliefs.
He said that while Khalil's activities were "otherwise lawful," letting him remain in the country would undermine "U.S. policy

in ways that make his characterization as the Trump movement's puppet-master fairly unwieldy. In an article called "Actually you shouldn't van people" he notes that "throwing random grad students who signed pro-Hamas op-eds into unmarked vans with black sacks on their heads is unlikely to be an effective strategic policy." This is not a sudden change of heart regarding the liberation of humanity ("All the institutional structures that maintain this fetish need to be broken into dust. All the human beings in these systems need a new job, a new hobby, or even a new fetish—like writing love letters to serial killers.") but it neatly clarifies the distinction between Yarvin, a self-styled Machiavellian, and a Trump administration whose terrorism czar is a Hungarian pioneer of various War-on-Terror misdeeds and whose picks to manage the border are out-and-out Nazis. They are stupider than Curtis Yarvin, far less coordinated than their enemies presume, and prone to overreach and missteps as a result.

They will be punished for their miscalculations far less than we will for whatever marginal successes we achieve. Ultimately, a mass movement will discover why Pete Hegseth's appointment as Secretary of Defense and the administration's purge of disloyal military leadership were so important: both were attempts to anticipate and undermine the last obstacle that Trump's first bumbling attempt at a seizure of power failed to anticipate - a disloyal Secretary of State who refused to deploy the National Guard on January 6th. Unlike the first administration, the right-wing street movement and militias, once referenced as a bellwether of increasingly-volatile American politics more and more comfortable with political violence, are quiet. The fantasy that right-wing militias would suddenly discipline themselves into organized 'cells' is mostly just that - fantasy. This is not because they are not already organized and federated; militia chapters are typically organized regionally, at the state level and locally. But their aims and self-styled political commitments are typically local, at the expense of national coordination or aspirations. They were underrepresented at January 6, and have most famously considered political violence at the state level - planning to hold government officials hostage in Michigan - only following months of FBI entrapment. The more active and explicitly fascistic street groups have alternated between deft manipulation of public, national discourse and humiliating defeats in street situations, while the active clubs have re-emerged to defend Tesla dealerships. These movements are responding to an objective shift in class forces and the role of the state. The Trump movement currently controls all three branches of the government and has disciplined the military to its own aims; a militia member who reads Pete Hegseth's "DEUS VULT" tattoo and breathes a sigh of relief is hardly wrong to do so. Why would their rank and file need to form a revolutionary force if they're already in power?

And us? Political violence has re-emerged and indexed our powerlessness, though that need not remain the case. Current mass mobilizations, tailing the Democratic establishment for lack of any better option, have been split along class lines, by gender, and by the color line. The 'Hands Off' protests - including NATO in their list of untouchable liberal institutions - have been overwhelmingly white, drawing in more participants from the middle classes (professionals, public service workers, state employees, teachers, etc.) than from proletarianized white labor; where they have attracted attention and attendance from Black and Latino participants it has typically been from the managerial sector as well. This ought not suggest that the correct movement against the Trump administration would go *through* the current anti-Musk and anti-Trump protests, as if their political composition is an independent barrier to their true proletarian content - Noel Ignatiev said once that the class, when it acts as the class, is never wrong. If the lower and more numerous layers of the class are keeping us waiting, it's because they have not judged that the time is right to act. It simply bears noting that a revolutionary movement in the United States would not just be a mass movement, measured in however many hundreds of thousands of participants were drawn to well-advertised protests, but a movement on the level of the class - involving the otherwise-abstentionist multiracial proletariat which entered the scene during 2020's George Floyd Uprising, and whose self-activity set the priorities, strategic reflections, tactical sensibilities and internal limits of that moment.

Trump's businessmen and cabinet members have responded to fears of a recession by issuing ominous warnings of 'growing pains' and necessary tribulations. Our task, as aspiring revolutionists, is to direct their own class hatred back at them: every moment of senseless suffering and every flippant justification of human deprivation ought to mark them, not as 'oligarchs' or would-be kings, but as the monsters they are: enemies of humanity, and of our continued existence on this earth.

First Call for the Mesoamerican Caravan for the Climate and Life

April 11, 2025

A call to participate in a caravan traveling from Mexico to Brazil organized by Indigenous and campesino social movements to take place later this year. Published in Spanish on the Centro de Medios Libres and translated by Scott Campbell.

To all the struggles, peoples, and movements of Mesoamerica, Abya Yala, and the Global South:

The climate crisis advances unstoppably, and with it, the devastation of our territories, our cultures, and our very lives. Dispossession, extractive megaprojects, and structural violence stalk us with greater intensity every day. In the face of this planetary emergency, we respond with unity, resistance, and hope.

This caravan will be a space of encounter and mobilization for the

peoples and communities that fight in defense of Mother Earth and of territories. We will unite our voices and forces to resist violence, make visible the biodiversity and cultural plurality of our peoples, and denounce the financial system that perpetuates destruction and dispossession.

The caravan will leave from the Mexican southeast, passing through Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and will arrive in Belém, Brazil, where we will raise our voice in the framework of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP30) and in the midst of this Civilizational Crisis that threatens our future with global collapse.

In order to achieve a deep analysis of reality that will allow us to identify the current threats and challenges, as well as to exchange experiences and strategies for the defense of the earth, common goods, nature, and territory, we will continue reflecting on the Four Interconnected Pillars of the Global Collapse.

These pillars emerge out of various historic and current crises, mainly present in the Global South, with the climate crisis having the greatest impact, as it cuts across and amplifies all our struggles. In the Mesoamerican context, these pillars reflect the particular way these historic and contemporary problems impact our peoples and territories.

FOUR PILLARS OF THE COLLAPSE:

1. Megaprojects and Militarization: Impact in Mesoamerica

The first of these pillars is the growing presence of megaprojects and militarization that severely affect local communities in Mesoamerica. In our region, megaprojects such as large hydroelectric dams, mines, and agro-industrial projects are a constant threat to Mother Earth. These projects, driven by transnational extractive interests, not only destroy the environment, but also devastate local economies, limit the self-determination of our peoples, and generate greater levels of insecurity.

The militarization that accompanies these megaprojects intensifies the repression and violence in the territories, with armed forces and paramilitaries protecting corporate interests instead of guaranteeing the security and wellbeing of the communities. This problem is reflected in the reorganization of borders and territories in a global geopolitical context where the powers of the Global North impose their economic interests at the expense of the peoples of the South.

2. Migration and Forced Displacement: The Reality of Mesoamerica

The second pillar is related to migration and forced displacement, phenomena that have intensified in Mesoamerica due to a combination of factors: armed conflicts, the violence of organized crime, and climate change. In the northern triangle of Central America, thousands of people flee from violence generated by drug trafficking and gangs, meanwhile, along the coasts and in the rural areas, Indigenous peoples and campesinos are displaced by the destruction of their lands due to extreme climate events such as hurricanes and droughts.

In addition, communities that live near large dams or extractive projects are forced to abandon their homes due to the destruction of their environment and the displacement generated by these projects. The global transnational economy and the restrictive migration policies of the countries of the Global North further aggravate this situation, creating a migration crisis that requires urgent and humanitarian solutions.

3. Monetarization and Commodification of Life: The Global Extractive Logic

Third, we face the monetarization and commodification of life, a process that is deepening in the Mesoamerican region. The expansion of the neoliberal model, in very little time, has turned our natural resources into commodities, subjecting them to the interests of large international financial funds, such as private banks, insurance companies, and transnational extractivism and speculation.

The megaprojects that devastate our territories are financed through debt by these entities, maximizing profits through the plunder and privatization of the commons. So-called “debt swaps” and “carbon credits” are examples of false climate solutions that, far from addressing the crisis, perpetuate injustice, as they do not attack the root causes of the climate crisis but impose measures that continue to benefit the most powerful countries and corporations.

In Mesoamerica, touristification and gentrification are also tools of this colonial economic logic that displace Indigenous communities and deepen social and economic inequalities, forcing thousands to abandon their homes and lands.

4. Global Water Crisis: An Urgent Problem in Mesoamerica

Finally, the fourth pillar is the global water crisis, which is particularly serious in our region. Mesoamerica is home to large water basins and unique ecosystems, but these resources are increasingly threatened by the plunder of extractive industries, the privatization of water, and climate change.

In countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, Indigenous and campesino communities face serious difficulties in accessing clean water due to the contamination of rivers, the shortages caused by deforestation, and the monopolization of water resources by large companies.

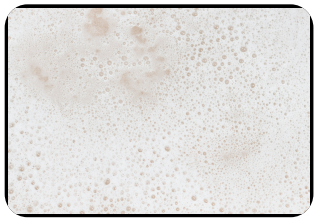
This crisis also affects food sustainability, as water sources are essential for local agriculture. The unsustainable management of water, coupled with the lack of equal access to water, puts not only rural zones at risk, but also the large cities which depend on these resources for survival.

A Call to Action: To Defend Live and the Earth

@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 10

"Yarvin sees his desired revolution unraveling under the weight of its own stupidity. He pines for intensified destruction, but it's not clear that will happen – at least not to the extent he considers necessary. So, in creeps the fear."

https://www.thenerdreich.com/curtis-yarvin-fears-his-authoritarian-fantasy-is-flopping/

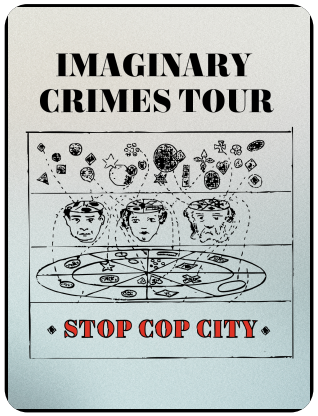


Curtis Yarvin Fears His Authoritarian Fantasy Is Flopping
Dark Enlightenment guru sees his desired revolution unraveling under the weight of its own stupidity

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 9

Don't miss the Imaginary Crimes tour!

https://anarchistagency.com/press-release-cross-country-stop-cop-city-imaginary-crimes-tour-begins-this-week-to-educate-public-about-rico-cases-and-ongoing-repression/



Press Release: Cross-Country "Stop Cop City: Imaginary Crimes" Tour Begins This Week to Educate Public About RICO Cases and Ongoing Repression

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 9

Resistance to repression is brewing on the streets. Check out the latest In Contempt here:

https://itsgoingdown.org/in-contempt-51/

In Contempt #51: Thousands Hit the Streets Against Deportations and Authoritarian Crackdown, 'Imaginary Crimes' Tour Kicks Off
In this column, we present our monthly roundup of political prisoner, prison rebel, and repression news, happenings, announcements, action a...

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 9

"A Louisiana immigration judge on Tuesday gave the Trump administration a little more than 24 hours to turn over evidence it says it has against Mahmoud Khalil, the former Columbia University graduate student it is trying to deport over his pro-Palestinian activism.

Judge Jamee Comans said she will then rule on Friday whether the 30-year-old legal permanent resident can be deported or whether he must be freed. If the government's evidence doesn't support Khalil's deportation, she said, she will "terminate" the case against him."

https://www.npr.org/2025/04/08/nx-s1-5356477/mahmoud-khalil-immigration-judge-ruling-ice-louisiana

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 16

25 years ago today, on April 16, 2000, tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington, DC to take action against the meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Building on the mobilization that shut down the summit of the World Trade Organization in Seattle the previous November, they sought to demonstrate the virtues of global solidarity as an alternative to neoliberal capitalist globalization.

This oral history captures the events and the spirit of the times in vivid detail.

http://crimethinc.com/A16

"The black bloc came at that moment when blood was streaming down people's faces and essentially pushed the police out of our intersection. They were just this wall of bodies that pushed them out and saved our intersection from any further police abuse. I've forever been grateful to that black bloc for hearing on the walkie talkies that we needed help and coming so powerfully to our aid."

"As participants in the black bloc, the thinking was: we're not going to get voluntarily arrested; we're not going to sit in the street while they put pepper spray in our eyes. We are going to fight back against police abuse."

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Apr 15

Even the Financial Times admits that Donald Trump is building a police state.

This should give everyone a new perspective on the movement to abolish the police, which was so controversial a few years ago. Despite tremendous outcry against racist police killings, the Biden administration doubled down on promoting the legitimacy of police and channeled considerable quantity of resources towards them, all of

Report on recent "Dogs not DOGE" demonstration against Tesla in Bloomington, IN.

A dozen people gathered in Bloomington, IN on March 22 for a "Dogs Not DOGE" protest at the only Tesla charging station in town.

Upon arrival, cops were just dispersing after harassing an unhoused woman sitting nearby the charging station. For an hour, participants tailgated at the charging station, blocking several chargers from use, chanting "Don't Buy Nazi Cars" and "Go Cyber Fuck Yourself," and passing out hotdogs to passersby.

After the manager of the neighboring Fresh Thyme supermarket, called the cops, the group dispersed. The manager refused a hotdog.

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 16

Great interview from @thebeautifulidea on the horrific murder of Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi.

https://itsgoingdown.org/the-murder-of-aysenur-ezgi-eygi-and-the-future-of-international-solidarity/

The Murder of Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi and the Future of International Solidarity
On September 6th of last year, 26 year old University of Washington graduate Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi was shot and killed by IDF soldiers while do...

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 16

"Trump's businessmen and cabinet members have responded to fears of a recession by issuing ominous warnings of 'growing pains' and necessary tribulations. Our task, as aspiring revolutionists, is to direct their own class hatred back at them: every moment of senseless suffering and every flippant justification of human deprivation ought to mark them, not as 'oligarchs' or would-be kings, but as the monsters they are: enemies of humanity, and of our continued existence on this earth."

https://itsgoingdown.org/a-conspiracy-of-dunces/

A Conspiracy of Dunces
The Lake Effect Collective offers a critical look at the Trump administration and the various capitalist and political forces within it. [W]...

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 16

Don't miss our latest installment of In Contempt, featuring a roundup of anti-repression news and action.

https://itsgoingdown.org/in-contempt-51/

In Contempt #51: Thousands Hit the Streets Against Deportations and Authoritarian Crackdown, 'Imaginary Crimes' Tour Kicks Off
In this column, we present our monthly roundup of political prisoner, prison rebel, and repression news, happenings, announcements, action a...

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 11

"A [massive] 9-foot-tall sculpture of Elon Musk's head located near SpaceX's launch facilities in Boca Chica, Texas, was busted up in recent days."

https://www.chron.com/culture/article/musk-bust-vandalized-20267408.php

It's Going Down

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 11

"This wasn't something that was random," says Makled. "They had a whole profile about me." He was eventually released after 90 minutes of questioning and refusing to provide sensitive client information to the agents. Makled believes he was targeted due to his involvement in cases that challenge the current administration of President Donald Trump."

https://truthout.org/video/lawyer-representing-pro-palestine-protester-detained-at-airport-phone-seized/

Lawyer Representing Pro-Palestine Protester Detained at Airport, Phone Seized
Amir Makled believes he was targeted for his work: "They had a whole profile about me," he says.

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Apr 10

"More than 100 colleges and universities across the country have reported cases of student visas being revoked by the U.S. State Department, with the department changing the legal status of over 600 international students and recent graduates, according to Inside Higher Ed."

https://truthout.org/articles/the-state-department-has-revoked-the-visas-of-over-600-students-at-100-schools/

The State Department Has Revoked the Visas of Over 600 Students at more than 100 Schools
Some students were forced to leave the country after being sent a text message saying that their visas were cancelled.

It's Going Down

These four pillars are profoundly interconnected and are the base of the global collapse we are facing. Climate change, the destruction of territories, and the plunder of natural resources are driven by an extractive logic that violates human rights and destroys life on the planet.

In the face of these challenges, it is essential to unite our struggles and strategies, to strengthen resistance, and to continue defending life, Earth, and our territories. From Mesoamerica, where historic struggles for self-determination, social justice, and environmental defense have been examples to the world, we must continue to raise our voices and organize ourselves to confront this civilizational crisis.

This call is for those of us who defend life, climate justice, and the dignity of the peoples. It is time to act!

WHO CAN JOIN THE CARAVAN?

We offer an extensive invitation to the Peoples, Communities, Organizations, collectives, and individuals who have the capacity to self-finance their mobility expenses during the trip to join the Caravan.

We also call on Peoples, Communities, Organizations, collectives, and Movements to collaborate in activities to be held in each geographic point and territory that the Caravan will travel through.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN THREE KEY COMMISSIONS:

1. Communication Commission:

The proposal is to provide coverage, record, and implement an effective communication strategy among caravan participants, local communities, and the media, to ensure that peoples' voices are heard and their struggles documented fairly, as well as to give visibility to the Caravan and its demands along the route.

Post-Caravan: To coproduce a documentary on the Caravan, as well as audiovisual material for social networks.

2. Research Commission:

The proposal is to take minutes and compile information during the caravan's journey to elaborate reports, analysis, and materials that make visible the situation in the territories of Mesoamerica, to generate collective knowledge, and to provide evidence to strengthen the demands of territorial struggles and social movements.

Post-Caravan: To continue systematizing and disseminating information on the climate crisis, the impacts of extractive megaprojects, violence, and the peoples' resistance.

3. Observation Commission:

The proposal is to accompany the journey, in person and virtually, to monitor violations of human rights that may occur during the journey, assuring that participant communities and members of the caravan are protected and accompanied at all times, denouncing any acts of violence in the territories, as well as repression by the authorities and other actors that impact our struggles.

Post-Caravan: To make a report of human rights violations encountered in the territories visited.

We invite you to be part of this cry of global resistance! Together we walk towards a future where life, water, territory, and dignity are respected. The struggle for climate justice cannot wait, and every collective action is one more step towards a world where we can live in harmony.

For more details and how to join the commissions, stay tuned for more information we will be sharing in the coming weeks.

We invite you to fill out our preregistration form: https://forms.gle/QM6mJeR1Z7dJ

See you in the Mesoamerican Caravan for the Climate and Life!

The Global South organizes and resists. Below and to the left!

The South Resists in every corner of the Global South!

The struggle in defense of the earth is the mother of all struggles!

The struggle for life is in our hands!

UNAM seeks to demobilize students, but protests continue

April 10, 2025

A short text by Camilo Ocampo, published on *Pie de Página* and translated by Scott Campbell, that looks at recent developments at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Since the publishing of this article, the struggle has spread throughout UNAM, with reports of five departments on "total strike" as of Wednesday, April 9, 2025. Those are Social and Political Sciences, Arts and Design, Engineering, Chemistry, and Architecture; with a partial strike in the Economy Department.

In the midst of a politically tense atmosphere within UNAM, the University Council, the highest governing body, approved a change in Article 15 of the University Tribunal Regulations, which seeks to implement the suspension or expulsion of students and academics who engage in "acts of vandalism" on the institution's campuses, as well as those who participate in drug dealing.

Students, workers, academics and even part of the University Council warn that this measure violates the freedom to protest, given the lack of clarity distinguishing between what is considered an act of vandalism and the right to protest.

This is the first modification to the document since its creation in 1945, and forms part of a series of changes being pushed during the Lomelí administration as the head of the institution.

Reform comes amid protests

The reform takes place in a political climate marked by the intention of university authorities to restructure the University Tribunal, toughening sanctions against those

who participate in protests.

On the other hand, the student mobilizations do not cease. As a result of the demand to implement cafeterias subsidized by the university, other problems within the community have come to light.

The demands remain the same: a halt to the repression exercised by the rector's office - through shock groups, such as *porros*, present in different departments -, the elimination of quotas in graduate courses, respect for the right to protest without reprisal, better security, and the democratization of the university.

The community mobilizes

Faced with UNAM's attempts to demobilize the students, they have marched to administrative buildings to demand solutions, in addition to blocking roads surrounding University City as a show of discontent with the authorities' decisions.

In addition, departments such as Social and Political Sciences, in University City, broke out in strikes after massive assemblies. These protests are in addition to those occurring in other parts of the country, such as the National School of Higher Education in Mérida, Yucatán and the Colleges of Sciences and Humanities high school system.

They are still waiting for a national mobilization to support their demands, the principal one being the implementation of subsidized cafeterias in all campuses of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Martin Sostre: A Legacy of Jailhouse Law, Prefigurative Politics and Revolt

April 9, 2025

***The Dugout* presents a look at the revolutionary life and legacy of Martin Sostre. Support *The Dugout* on Patreon here and listen to the show here.**

Martin Sostre was more than a political prisoner—he was a revolutionary thinker who reshaped the prison abolition movement from behind bars. In this episode of *The Dugout*, we uncover the life and radical legacy of Sostre, from his early years in Harlem to his transformation into one of the most fearless prison intellectuals of the 20th century.

We break down his fight against the U.S. carceral system, his role in prison uprisings, and how his legal battles set precedents for prisoners' rights. Through the lens of Black anarchism and abolition, we explore what Sostre's resistance means for today's movements against state violence, political imprisonment, and mass incarceration.

The Murder of Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi and the Future of International Solidarity

April 9, 2025

On September 6th of last year, 26 year old University of Washington graduate Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi was shot and killed by IDF soldiers while doing accompaniment in the West Bank of Palestine with International Solidarity Movement (ISM). In this episode, we speak with a friend of Ayşenur's who had travelled to the West Bank to do accompaniment with ISM alongside her, and was present during the days leading up to and immediately after her murder.

We discuss what happened to Ayşenur, settler violence against Palestinians and IDF complicity, grief, remembrance, and ways in which anarchist movements internationally can effectively support people facing violence from the state and occupying forces.

During the discussion a number of pieces are referenced:

- *Theses On Palestine Solidarity* by Anonymous
- *The Gaza Ghetto Uprising* by Adi Callai
- *The Gaza ceasefire will not cure the wounds of genocide* by Roaa Shamallakh
- For more background, see the interview with Adi Callai on *This is America* here.

For more information about Ayşenur and her murder at the hands of the IDF, please go here and here. The speaker interviewed on this episode does not represent the views of International Solidarity Movement. For more about the work of ISM, visit their website here. This interview was originally conducted immediately following the agreement to a ceasefire between the IDF and Hamas, on January 16th, 2025. We apologize for the delayed release.

Photojournalist David Peralta Betanzos Attacked and Robbed of His Equipment in Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

April 9, 2025

Statement of solidarity with the photojournalist and community organizer David Peralta Betanzos who was recently attacked and robbed of his photo equipment by the cacique Manuel Zepeda Cortés in the community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, Oaxaca.

On April 3, 2025 the photojournalist David Peralta Betanzos, member of the Indigenous Mazatec community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magon, Oaxaca was attacked and threatened by the cacique Manuel Zepeda Cortés, while photographing and documenting the extraction of natural resources in the community.

David Peralta is a photojournalist who studied at the School of Communication at the *Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco* in Mexico City. With his camera he has been documenting communal organization (festivities, collective work), the flora and fauna of the community, the natural resources and their exploitation, for a photo competition in Oaxaca City where he is presenting his work.

(@fuzyjoe.bsky.social) 2025-03-29T21:04:21.884Z

Trump officials have also pushed to demonize a growing chorus of sabotage, graffiti, and property destruction against Tesla vehicles, labeling it "domestic terrorism," while predictably echoing far-Right conspiracies that such acts are being "funded," as Trump has even floated the idea that anti-Tesla protesters would be sent to prisons in El Salvador, and Musk has claimed that the Trump administration would "go after" vocal critics of his company.

I am tracking multiple far right groups, including extremist groups such as the Proud Boys and White Supremacists, organizing counter-protests and other actions in response to tomorrow's #TeslaTakedown protests during the "Global Day of Action."

— Teddy Wilson (@reportbywilson.bsky.social) 2025-03-28T20:20:04.389Z

Increased authoritarian rhetoric from Trump, Musk, and pundits on *Fox News* has galvanized a small segment of far-Right, neo-Nazi, and Republican groups to mobilize in public support of Musk and his increasingly unpopular attacks on working-class Americans, in an attempt to intimidate anti-Musk protesters. Already in Florida, a Trump supporter was arrested last week, after driving his car onto the sidewalk in an apparent attempt to injure anti-Tesla protesters, and in Berkeley, CA, a far-Right influencer clashed with demonstrators after he pulled a weapon on the crowd.

At the Boise area Tesla protest, these brave American chuds were there to ensure a safe shopping environment by standing around with guns, screaming slurs from a bullhorn, and occasionally chanting "we love Musk." Extremely normal stuff that people love to wade through when car-shopping.#idaho

— CallipygianTheTerrible (@eurovisionista.bsky.social) 2025-03-29T22:08:14.270Z

Despite the far-Right coming out in support of Musk, the number of anti-Tesla demonstrations only continues to increase, with protests taking place at hundreds of locations on March 29th. Calls for counter-protests by Trump supporters, neo-Nazis, and Proud Boys also failed to stop or intimidate anti-Tesla demonstrators, and generally, far-Right rally goers were vastly outnumbered when counter-protests did take place.

#TeslaTakedown demonstrations held a large rally today in #Fresno. Showing up in support of billionaire Elon Musk was Josh Fulfer, who took part in J6th + has a rap sheet including weapons charges + domestic violence.Fulfer rallies alongside neo-Nazis and Proud Boys. gvwire.com/2025/03/29/d...

— It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-03-30T06:07:39.438Z

In Salem, OR, over 100 rallied to protest Musk outside of a Tesla showroom, while several members of the Proud Boys held Trump flags in support of Musk in a counter-demonstration.

— The Duck Station (Parody) (@kugn590.bsky.social) 2025-03-30T02:16:22.803Z

In Fresno, CA, dozens of pro-Musk counter-protesters faced off against a crowd of over 100, who denounced the Nazi saluting billionaire. Among the pro-Musk group was Josh Fulfer, a January 6th participant with a history of domestic violence and known for attending far-Right rallies alongside neo-Nazis and Proud Boys. In Camarillo, CA, a small group of far-Right Trump supporters also showed up to counter a much larger anti-Tesla protest.

Columbus, Ohio #teslatakedown with over 1000 protestors. Proud Boys decided to show up, but only about 20 of them. #teslaprotest #columbusohio

— Emily (@emily-k.bsky.social) 2025-03-29T23:00:30.366Z

In Columbus, OH, despite threats of the Proud Boys showing up, a crowd of over 500 rallied against Tesla, with only around 30 pro-Musk counter-protesters materializing.

Small smattering of neo-Nazis, Proud Boys, and MAGA came out to show support for Nazi saluting billionaire Elon Musk today - including David Pettinger in #Idaho, who rocked a Hitler mustache and Musk "salute" shirt.These neo-Nazis are emboldened by Musk's embrace of Hitler. #TeslaTakedown

— It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-03-30T05:58:46.687Z

In Meridian, ID, around 100 armed far-Right Musk supporters did rally against a smaller anti-Musk demonstration outside of a Tesla, including local far-Right activist David Pettinger, who attended the rally dressed like Adolf Hitler, complete with a small mustache and a shirt showing Elon Musk giving a Nazi salute.

A banner outside the Manhattan Tesla Showroom reads "Burn a Tesla, Save Democracy" during the 'Takedown Tesla' protest in NYC.

— Tina MF (@tmfab.bsky.social) 2025-03-29T20:51:01.553Z

Hundreds of pro-Musk demonstrators also rallied in New Jersey, facing off against a seemingly smaller group of anti-Musk protestors. Anti-Tesla demonstrators also squared off with counter-protesters in Oklahoma, Connecticut, Florida, Texas, and Long Island, NY, with far-Right crowds often remaining much smaller than the number of anti-Musk protesters.

Cover photo featuring collage from Boise Autonomous Solidarity Hub, the Duck Station, and Brooke Pierce.

Bloomington, IN: "Dogs not DOGE" Protests Tesla Charging Station

March 25, 2025

that Arise in Disaster (New York: Penguin Books, 2010). ↩
22. William C. Anderson, *The Nation on No Map: Black Anarchism and Abolition* (Chico: AK Press, 2021). ↩
23. Ibid., 178. ↩
24. Ibid., 179. ↩
25. BRRN, of course, has a less authoritarian understanding of "leadership" than many Panthers did. ↩
26. For powerful descriptions of how the survival programs contributed to the BPP's growth and standing in the community, see Robert O. Self, *American Babylon: Politics and Society in Twentieth Century America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003), 231-232; David Hilliard and Lewis Cole, *This Side of Glory: The Autobiography of David Hilliard and the Story of the Black Panther Party* (Chicago: Lawrence Hill Books, 2001); Flores A. Forbes, *Will You Die with Me? My Life and the Black Panther Party* (New York: Atria Books, 2006). ↩
27. Huey Newton, *To Die for the People: The Writings of Huey P. Newton*. (New York: Vintage Books, 1972), 104. ↩
28. Nicolas Delalande, *Struggle and Mutual Aid: The Age of Worker Solidarity* (New York: Other Press, 2023), 70. ↩
29. Cooperation among police departments has long been seen as a form of mutual aid; see California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, *Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan* (Mather: Cal OES, 2019), https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Law-Enforcement/Documents/Blue Book_Law-Enforcement-Mutual-Aid-Plan.pdf. For examples of far-right and white nationalist mutual aid efforts, see Zoya Teirstein, "Boots on the Ground," *The Grist*, May 17, 2023, https://grist.org/extreme-weather/boots-on-the-ground-fema-oath-keepers-natural-disaster/; Candice Bernd, "Fascists Are Trying to Co-opt Mutual Aid Organizing in East Palestine, Ohio," *Truthout*, March 6, 2023, https://truthout.org/articles/fascists-are-trying-to-co-opt-mutual-aid-organizing-in-east-palestine-ohio/. When the far-right engages in these activities, they tend to be described in left media as forms of co-optation, propaganda (e.g., https://www.middlebury.edu/institute/academics/centers-initiatives/ctec/publications/danger-organizations-and-bad-actors-patriot), or "disaster tourism" (e.g., https://itsgoingdown.org/state-against-fascist-disaster-tourism-in-western-north-carolina/). ↩
30. Anonymous, "Notes on Mutual Aid Volume 2 — Friends, Foes, and Wolves in Sheeps Clothing," *Mutual Aid Notes* (blog), 2024, https://mutualaidnotes.noblogs.org/2-friends-foes-and-wolves-in-sheeps-clothing; Suzanne Cope, *Power Hungry: Women of the Black Panther Party and Freedom Summer and Their Fight to Feed a Movement* (Chicago: Lawrence Hill Books, 2022). ↩
31. Belinda Robnett, *How Long? How Long?: African American Women in the Struggle for Civil Rights* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997); Robyn C. Spencer, *The Revolution Has Come: Black Power, Gender, and the Black Panther Party in Oakland* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2016). ↩

photo via: Remora House DC

#TeslaTakedown Protests Grow as Proud Boys and White Supremacists Fail to Intimidate Demonstrators off the Streets

March 30, 2025

Protests against billionaire Elon Musk and his growing attacks on federal workers, veterans, and social programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, continued to gain momentum on Saturday, as thousands took part in hundreds of #TeslaTakedown demonstrations across the US and beyond, despite an attempt by small groups of neo-Nazis, Proud Boys, and Trump supporters to intimidate rally goers.

#TeslaTakedown NYC

— Brooke Pierce (@bpie7.bsky.social) 2025-03-29T17:38:04.661Z

As *The Guardian* reported:

On Saturday, with more than 200 events planned worldwide, protests kicked off midday in front of Tesla showrooms in Australia and New Zealand and then rippled across Europe in countries including Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the UK. Each rally was locally organized with original themes. In Ireland, it was "Smash the Fash", and Switzerland had "Down with Doge". Photos posted to Bluesky by Tesla Takedown showed demonstrators in San Jose, California, close to where Tesla was previously headquartered, and Austin, Texas, where its headquarters are now.

Since Trump came to power on January 20th, 2025, an organic movement has been building, holding rallies and protests outside of Tesla dealerships, encouraging people to boycott the automaker, dump their Tesla stock, and trade-in their vehicles. Over the past two months, Tesla stock has tanked, costing Musk billions of dollars, trade-ins of Tesla vehicles have skyrocketed, and boycotts in places like Germany, where Musk came out in support of the neo-fascist AfD party, has led to a *mass* decline in sales. Despite politicians and influencers rushing to encourage the MAGA faithful to buy Tesla vehicles, as *Business Insider* reported, "Tesla has lost so much value in such a short period of time that JPMorgan analysts said they couldn't think of another comparable moment in automotive history."

Protesters hold signs as they protest in Walnut Creek, Calif., on Saturday, March 29, 2025. About 2,000 people showed up to protest against Elon Musk and the current administration. #teslaprotest #tesla #teslatakedown #protest

— Jose Carlos Fajardo

It is important to mention that David is the younger brother of Miguel Peralta Betanzos, ex-political prisoner currently politically persecuted, who has been criminalized for his struggle against the caciquismo of Manuel Zepeda Cortés and his daughter Elisa Zepeda Lagunas in the community. David's father was also imprisoned for three years for crimes fabricated by the same cacique family.

David has participated actively in the struggle for the freedom of his brother, his father, and the other people criminalized in the community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón. The attack to which he was subjected is not at all disconnected from his involvement in these struggles.

We denounce the attack on David, along with the caciquismo of Manuel Zepeda Cortés and his daughter Elisa Zepeda Lagunas, who are responsible for more than a decade of repression, violence, and division in the community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón. The fact that David was threatened on a public road for photographing the exploitation of gravel and rock that Manuel Zepeda Cortés has carried out in the community, demonstrates that the cacique Manuel Zepeda Cortés has something to hide. He doesn't want the exploitation of the natural resources of the community, carried out by his company, to be exposed to the public.

Furthermore, the attack shows that the tactics of provocation and violent confrontation of Manuel Zepeda Cortés haven't changed. These same tactics were used when he and a violent group attacked the caravan preparing to travel to the tomb of Ricardo Flores Magón in November 2012, along with the attack on the community assembly on December 14, 2014, after which 40 people were criminalized. This latter attack set the foundation for the last decade of repression that the community has faced. Intimidation is a resource that Manuel Zepeda has utilized to disarticulate the community organization. His tactics have been backed up by state authorities in general, and specifically by his daughter Elisa Zepeda, current local representative in the state congress.

It is important to emphasize that during the attack on David, Manuel Zepeda threatened to file a legal complaint against him for supposedly being on "private property," something that is totally false. This threat is worrying considering the long history of the fabrication of crimes that Manuel and Elisa Zepeda have carried out against members of the community, and the close ties they have to the court in Huautla de Jiménez, as well as to judicial power at the state and federal levels.

Considering all this, we want to make clear that whatever threat that becomes a reality will be the total and absolute responsibility of the Zepeda Lagunas family and their lackeys. The security of David, his family, and the community as a whole must be guaranteed amidst this environment of hostility and threats against their lives.

We call on collectives and individuals to be attentive to any further hostilities.

Documenting, registering, and photographing the natural resources should not be an activity which brings with it a risk to the lives of the people who carry out such journalistic work.

End the fabrication of crimes!

For an Eloxochitlán free of caciques!

End the plunder and political persecution!

Support Group in Solidarity with Miguel Peralta

Miguel Peralta Betanzos

Photo taken by David Peralta Betanzos of the extraction of the natural resources in Eloxochitlán being carried out by Manuel Zepeda.

It Will Take Collective Direct Action to Stop the Abductions

April 5, 2025

An analysis of the recent wave of repression against international students and how communities might respond.

The Trump administration has begun disappearing international students and workers from university campuses. This article, written by three academic workers, argues that this escalation was made possible by a campaign of repression initiated by universities themselves. After analyzing where we are and how we got here, the authors put forward their answer to the pressing questions: what would a fight back look like and how do we go about organizing it?

by Jon Archer, Alexandria H., and Cameron Pádraig

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) abduction of Mahmoud Khalil, Leqaa Kordia, Rumeysa Ozturk, and Badar Khan Suri, as well as the potential deportations of Momodou Taal and Yunseo Chung and the forced displacement of Ranjani Srinivasan, are part of a mounting wave of repression on university campuses across the United States. Building on tactics spearheaded by well-resourced zionist organizations, Democratic Party officials, and liberal university administrators to quash campus protests, the Trump administration is launching an all-out offensive against migrant and immigrant organizers in the Palestine solidarity movement that will likely include further attempts to disappear, incarcerate, and/or deport campus dissidents—including those born in the US—in the coming weeks and months.

This escalation is part of a broader strategy of state repression that has at least three objectives: First, to deter Palestine solidarity organizing on college campuses, thereby undermining the growing opposition to U.S.-funded genocide, imperial expansion, and capitalist extraction in the region. Second, to test particular interpretations of immigration law and free speech protections in order to ascertain what, if any, limits the judiciary will place on political repression, all in the hope of expanding the state's ability to crack down on any speech it

classifies as oppositional to the United States or Trump himself. Finally, and perhaps most obscured by the fact that these attacks are flying under the cloak of "fighting antisemitism," they aim to degrade and ultimately dismantle higher education as an independent institution (even if its actually-existing independence is severely limited).

The time to fight back is now. Small but significant efforts to defeat various parts of this growing repressive apparatus have already proven successful on several campuses, but building on these minor wins will require a commitment to deep organizing and a willingness to develop principled coalitions across movements, sectors, and organizations. By uniting immigration, labor, and Palestine solidarity organizing, we can not only build the power necessary to protect ourselves, but also develop an offensive strategy capable of shifting the balance of forces in our favor. When we organize together, we can do more than hold ground- we can gain it.

Where We Were

The playbook currently being used to bludgeon Palestine solidarity organizers originated through the cynical, bipartisan efforts of university stakeholders to paint pro-Palestinian students, staff, and faculty as "antisemites" and "terrorist sympathizers". Even before the Trump administration's more forceful intervention, universities' punitive machinery was working in overdrive, including aggressive censorship of classroom discussions and political raids of students' organizing and living spaces. University administrators also adopted increasingly punitive "Time, Place, and Manner" (TPM) policies, under which they arrogate to themselves the right to order students and workers to be arrested or disciplined for engaging in public political activities of almost any sort.

While an escalation, these most recent attacks on Palestine solidarity organizers are therefore not some bolt from the blue; the Trump administration is extending an existing bipartisan counter-insurgency campaign originated by liberal, zionist, and far-right elements alike, each of whom played or continues to play a role in attacking pro-Palestinian students and workers on campuses around the country. These attacks have run the gamut from physical assault, to rhetorical demonization in the press, to the use of the presidential pulpit to cast those organizing for a ceasefire and against occupation as dangerously naive at best and bigoted at worst, and thus deserving of whatever means necessary to hammer them into submission.

Indeed, Mahmoud Khalil makes it clear who he holds at least partly responsible for his arrest in a letter dictated from inside an ICE detention facility, arguing that, "[Columbia] Presidents Shafik, Armstrong, and Dean Yarhi-Milo laid the groundwork for the U.S. government to target" him by "arbitrarily disciplining pro-Palestinian students and allowing viral doxing—based on racism and disinformation—to go unchecked."

Where We Are Now

It is unsurprising, then, that the Trump administration has picked up and begun sprinting with this ready-made formula. Still, given their supposed adherence to "liberal principles," one might be forgiven for assuming that university administrators have changed their tune now that it is Trump and MAGA Republicans instead of Democrats who are baying for the blood of students and workers on their campuses. Of course, this is not the case. Columbia has already capitulated to the Trump administration's demands to ban masks, deputize security officers to arrest students, and defund Middle Eastern Studies departments, in addition to collaborating with the far right to continue to harass, dox, and deport students, staff, and faculty. With increasing pace, universities around the country are also falling in line by firing unionized academic workers, expelling students, and even assisting ICE in their campaign of abductions. All of this to avoid the revocation of federal grants and other government funding that will almost undoubtedly be slashed anyway.

That seemingly "progressive" institutions like Cornell, Columbia, Georgetown, and numerous campuses within the University of California system would be active partners in an authoritarian purge of students, staff, and faculty reflects the deep flaw within liberal institutions: that justice-oriented principles and convictions are such in name only and commitments to justice are nothing more than a thin veneer peeling away with the slightest pressure. As is now clear for all to see, the vaunted liberalism of that part of the ruling classes found in the university is fully continuous with the technocratic-capitalistic structure of US imperialism which those classes uphold and benefit from.

What must be understood is that the fallout of collaborating with the Trump administration will extend beyond the Palestine solidarity movement and affect all aspects of the academy. By sacrificing their students, workers, and stated principles, university administrators are voluntarily opening the door to the complete dismantling of higher education.

Where We Are Heading

The right has a much wider agenda for the academy than merely ridding campuses of dissident students and workers. While the escalation in attacks on the Palestine solidarity movement are motivated largely by nativist racism and an effort to uphold US-Israeli geopolitical hegemony, they also demonstrate the right's deep and enduring contempt for institutions of education, particularly universities.

Through extortion, lawfare tactics, and other means, the Trump administration is enacting a long-term strategy of remaking universities into subservient instruments of far-right hegemony. Horrific as instances of state-backed repression have been so far, we

accompanied by a corresponding practical or strategic shift. In some usages, "autonomous mutual aid" seems to cover any collective struggle to improve people's lives, becoming synonymous with organizing, or even radical activity itself. In practice, though, when people actually *do* mutual aid—autonomous or not—such distinctions tend to disappear. ↩

2. Errico Malatesta, "Organization," *L'Agitazione* (Ancona) 1, nos. 13-15, June 1897, https://theanarchistlibrary.org/malatesta-organization. ↩
3. To help identify actors and goals of struggle, Chilean anarchist José Antonio Gutiérrez Danton also challenges us to identify the traditions of struggle they can draw on to guide their action within their shared social location; see Jose Antonio Gutiérrez D., "The Problems Posed by the Concrete Class Struggle and Popular Organization," *Black Rose/Rosa Negra Anarchist Federation* (blog), September 17, 2017, https://www.blackrosefed.org/posed-by-the-concrete-class-struggle/. ↩
4. Felipe Corrêa, "Create a Strong People: Discussions on Popular Power," *Black Rose/Rosa Negra Anarchist Federation* (blog), April 6, 2020, https://www.blackrosefed.org/a-strong-people-discussions-on-popular-power/. ↩
5. Dean Spade, *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During this Crisis (and the Next)* (New York: Verso, 2020), https://theanarchistlibrary.org/spade-mutual-aid.pdf, 8. ↩
6. Spade, 16. ↩
7. Mia Wong, "Common Humanity Collective and the Politics of Mutual Aid, Part 1," *It Could Happen Here* (podcast), November 1, 2021, https://www.iheart.com/podcast/it-could-happen-here-30717896/episode/common-humanity-collective-and-the-politics-88736727/; Keith McHenry, *Hungry for Peace: How You Can Help End Poverty and War with Food Not Bombs* (Tucson: See Sharp Press, 2015), https://foodnotbombs.net/new 32. ↩
8. Spade, 45-50. ↩
9. Rhiannon Firth, "Mutual Aid, Anarchist Preparedness and COVID-19," in *Coronavirus, Class and Mutual Aid in the United Kingdom* (London: Palgrave McMillan, 2020), 57-111, https://theanarchistlibrary.org/firth-mutual-aid-anarchist-preparedness-and-covid-19. ↩
10. scott crow, *Black Flags and Windmills: Hope, Anarchy, and the Common Ground Collective* (Oakland: PM Press, 2011). ↩
11. Mutual Aid Disaster Relief, "A Love Letter To The Future: On Mutual Aid & Building Power While the Lights Are Out," *Mutual Aid Disaster Relief* (blog), n.d., https://mutualaiddisasterrelief.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Love-Letter-tothe-Future.pdf. ↩
12. See, e.g., Boise Mutual Aid, "Mutual Aid: Solidarity in Action," *Mutual Aid Disaster Relief* (blog), 2021, https://mutualaiddisasterrelief.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Mutual-Aid-Solidarity-in-Action-BMA-READ.pdf; Rhiannon Firth, *Disaster Anarchy: Mutual Aid and Radical Action* (London: Pluto Press, 2022). ↩
13. Anonymous, "Notes on Mutual Aid Volume 1 — A Local History of Survival and Struggle," *Mutual Aid Notes* (blog), 2023, https://mutualaidnotes.noblogs.org/1-a-local-history-of-survival-and-struggle/. ↩
14. James Stout, "Border Kindness and Mutual Aid Along the Border," *It Could Happen Here* (podcast), August 17, 2023, https://www.iheart.com/podcast/it-could-happen-here-30717896/episode/border-kindness-and-mutual-aid-along-121304587/. ↩
15. Water Drop LA, "About Us," last modified in 2021, https://www.waterdropla.org/about; McHenry, 2015. ↩
16. DSA: Mutual Aid Working Group, "Brake Light Clinics," *Democratic Socialists of America*, n.d., https://mutualaid.dsausa.org/plight-clinics/. ↩
17. Indeed, this is what Pytor Kropotkin meant when he coined the term: species collaborate and aid one another to survive, thrive, and evolve. As we explain further, revolutions (will) draw on collaborative instincts, but those instincts are not in themselves revolutionary. ↩
18. McHenry, 36-38, 41-43, 47. ↩
19. Spade, 16-17, 75-95. ↩
20. Two political organizations that try to incorporate these efforts into a longer-term strategy are worth briefly mentioning. Borrowing from Pierre-Joseph Proudhon's mutualism and Murray Bookchin's libertarian municipalism, the Symbiosis Collective's "community institutions of mutual aid" and the Libertarian Socialist Caucus of the Democratic Socialists of America's "counter-institutions" are intended to one day supplant capitalist and statist social relations. Mutual aid projects thus figure prominently in their "dual power" strategies for working-class self-emancipation. We argue below that rather than relegating mutual aid practices to a separate plank in our strategies, they have the greatest potential to reach masses of people and reconfigure social relations when they are built into the mass organizations that can seize the means of life. Symbiosis Collective, "Community, Democracy, and Mutual Aid: Towards Dual Power and Beyond," 2017, https://thenextsystem.org/sites/07/Symbiosis_AtLargeFirst-corrected-2.pdf; DSA Libertarian Socialist Caucus, "Dual Power: A Strategy to Build Socialism in our Time," 2018, https://dsa-lsc.org/2018/12/31/dual-power-a-strategy-to-build-socialism-in-our-time/. ↩
21. For an incisive account of the status quo's (un)intentionally recuperative efforts, see Rebecca Solnit, *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities*

relationships. Imagine, for instance, neighbors who host language exchange classes so that they can better fight their landlord together or co-workers who set up childcare networks so parents can attend strike preparation meetings. These practices invite people to see "taking care of one another" more expansively than the mere provision of services. Against the ways the structures of domination chew us up and spit us out, we begin to build a world founded on reciprocal solidarity that meets all of our needs.

The operative word here is *reciprocal*. As opposed to "goodwill and generosity," reciprocal solidarity—actually *mutual* mutual aid—"create[s] an economic, moral, and political link between people... [that] would contribute to a collective emancipation."[28] In the nineteenth-century, labor unions lent each other funds—across professional and national boundaries—at zero-percent interest to support striking workers, print propaganda, and establish collectively owned and run ventures. Such practices were intended to create a pool of generalized credit that strengthened ties among workers, funded each other's struggles, and developed a revolutionary consciousness of kinship. Reciprocity is an inherent feature of organizing above and beyond the provision of aid; against the hierarchy implied by a logic of service, reciprocity creates the conditions under which power can be built and shared among members of dominated classes, thereby improving the success of any given organizing campaign.

Reciprocity does not mean we keep one-to-one balance sheets about who contributes and receives what. That would ignore the deep inequalities capitalism cultivates within the working class. At the same time, developing no mechanisms to encourage recipients of support to contribute back to the movement defaults these practices to individual choice and morality. Truly reciprocal solidarity is predicated on a radical form of social consciousness and organizational structures that the informal affinities of most mutual aid can't hope to match.

This is one reason BRRN focuses o n *mass organizing*. This doesn't mean rejecting mutual aid—far from it. However, by centering organizing, we can approach the question of mutual aid in a more rigorous and intentional way. When developing our own campaigns, we can make sure mutual aid practices are integrated into a strategy designed to build enough popular power to alter the conditions that require aid in the first place. We can foreground reciprocal solidarity as a way to forge new relationships premised on shared struggles and shared visions. We can change the world as we care for one another.

Revolutionary Care in No Uncertain Terms

Language shapes how we see the world. Unclear or misused language can divert us from our political goals, just as precise language and sharp ideas can bring them closer. It is beyond the scope of this essay to fully catalog how the growing, often contradictory conceptions of mutual aid might obscure or illuminate a revolutionary horizon, but we will note that both state, as well as non-state actors on the far right have utilized these practices and sometimes even the terminology for their own ends.[29] While some may suggest that this is an example of how mutual aid can become co-opted or appropriated, we are less concerned with arguing for or against any inherent or essential quality that mutual aid might possess. In the current sociopolitical climate, mutual aid, like organizing itself, is politically neutral, only rendered counter/revolutionary by those who use it and for what purposes.

We raise the above distinctions between mutual aid and organizing to speak to a vision of mutual aid that coheres with BRRN's existing program and strategy, not to denigrate comrades and the blood, sweat, and tears they devote to mutual aid projects. Emergent, unsanctioned, activist-led relief efforts can mitigate the worst effects of crises, especially for populations disproportionately dispossessed by state disinvestment. It is also inherently risky, as state agencies frequently bid to regain social control by targeting those projects with harassment and other repressive techniques.[30]

Moreover, the work of caring for each other has historically been and still is considered a "lesser" form of supporting social transformation. Patriarchy's declaration that social reproductive labor is "women's work"—and thus, according to misogynist logic, both gendered and devalued—seeps through our social movements.[31] These divisions leave power imbalances unchallenged; they ignore the impossibility of struggle without robust mechanisms for sustaining movements; they prevent our movements from reaching their liberatory ends. Against this sort of essentialized compartmentalization, we must consciously integrate these practices of care into mass organizations to survive, pending revolution.

We must also be aware that survival as an end unto itself can delay revolution indefinitely, however. By distinguishing mutual aid from organizing and situating the former within the latter, we ensure that our actions are powerful enough to transform our world, permanently shifting the balance of forces in favor of the dominated classes. *This* is the only way to truly survive.

Notes

1. Although some mutual aid activists make a distinction between "direct aid" (decentralized charitable provisions of goods and services) and "autonomous mutual aid" (a supposedly more radical version that seeks to address the causes that necessitate aid), we stick to the more common term "mutual aid." As will become clear, we think the differences between the two are minimal. The term "autonomous mutual aid" was created, in part, to answer the sorts of reservations outlined in this essay. It is a linguistic broadening that is not

should only conclude that these are intended to test legal and social tolerances for far more extreme efforts. We can be sure that there are more ICE abductions, firings, and threats to revoke federal funding on the way. There should be little doubt that both the scale and breadth of these attacks will widen—there will be no "staying out of it".

So far, administrators in charge of universities which are in the crosshairs of this assault have acceded to the demands Trump has placed before them, an advantage the right is certain to press. To put it bluntly, If Columbia's administrators believe they satisfied the Trump administration by quickly (read: spinelessly) acquiescing to its orders, they are fools. For the far-right now in power, this battle is existential.

Ultimately, it is just as foolish for us as academic workers and students to expect anything else from campus administrators. Our point here is not to chide the academy for betraying its stated principles, but to demonstrate that those of us who learn and work within institutions of higher education must not rely on the university leaders to protect us. Instead, we need to build independent coalitions across a wide range of constituencies so that we can protect ourselves and foster the kinds of solidarities we will need to defeat the far-right's offensive, both on campus and off.

How We Can Fight

The tasks before us involve the hard work of developing coalitions, identifying specific and achievable concrete objectives, and creating strategies of escalation that aim to secure them.

Constructing the sort of coalitions necessary to meet the moment, particularly those whose members are prepared to engage in large scale disruptive collective action, will not be easy. This deep organizing work begins with identifying an issue around which a variety of groups can be mobilized together. This might be a demand for the university administration to designate the campus a "sanctuary" for undocumented students and workers, or a campaign to defeat anti-free speech Time, Place, and Manner (TPM) policies, for example. Whatever the issue is, it will be necessary to bring wider layers of the campus into the fight.

Through an issue based campaign that encourages broad participation, it is possible to establish the foundation for a more stable coalition of constituent groups and organizations. As we demonstrate in the anecdote in the next section, these will likely be labor unions and student organizations.

The type of power we need to develop if we are to wage an effective counter-attack on the far-right and its liberal junior partners will not be given to us gracefully. Ultimately, we have access to one source of power through which to force the university into meaningful concessions. And that power lies in our potential ability to stop it from functioning altogether. Throughout all our on-campus organizing efforts, we should keep this one point in mind: that sooner or later we are going to have to strike, or engage in other forms of mass-scale disruptive activity. Because of this, our constant strategy should be the preparation of a mass base for supporting and participating in this kind of action, a process that also includes assessing the strength of our collective leverage by staying in close contact with members of that base. The constant question before us is this: What are the organizational forms that are necessary for the development of this kind of radical constituency?

Moreover, in their multi-pronged assault on universities as sites of radical organizing, Trumpist forces are exploiting the major weakness of campus-based organizing projects: their physical and cultural isolation from the broader working class and other oppressed groups. Student and worker organizers should also therefore consciously seek out new alliances with immigrant and worker organizations, both within the university and beyond. In particular, building together with labor unions to defend free expression and the safety of migrant workers can generate maximum leverage in struggles against common sources of repression, all while helping build toward the kinds of large-scale coordinated disruptive actions-especially multi-sectoral strikes-that could become increasingly possible and necessary in the time ahead. Now is an important moment to redouble efforts to ally with other sectors around common interests and demands.

An Example of Our Proposal in Practice

Recent cross-union organizing on the campus of UC Santa Cruz, against its version of the Time, Place, Manner (TPM) policy is a case in point. Throughout the first part of the academic year, university officials dispatched police officers and members of the university's "demonstration operations team" to harass and intimidate workers and students at public political actions, using TPM as a pretext. Among other outrages, UC police officers arrested an undergraduate member of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) merely for wearing a mask and using a bullhorn during a demonstration on October 7th, 2024. Members of other campus unions, including graduate workers union UAW 4811 and service workers union AFSCME 3299, were also subject to disciplinary threats by university officials for routine organizing activities like conducting rallies, hanging banners, and picketing without a permit.

Identifying TPM as a frontal attack on workers' ability to self-organize in the workplace, six campus-connected labor unions responded by developing a joint anti-repression campaign, with an immediate goal of overturning the draconian new restrictions on speech and assembly. Crucially, the Northern California Carpenters Union, which is currently waging a campaign against the university's reliance on a union-busting construction firm, joined the coalition and played a significant role in shaping its direction. The cross-union coalition also

developed solidaristic bonds with student groups, particularly Students for Justice in Palestine, which has been the target of the university's most heavy-handed forms of repression and surveillance. This multi-pronged and broad-based organizing effort culminated in a large demonstration in the main campus plaza in February, the purpose of which was to defy TPM in the most public way possible.

This united-front approach—ultimately backstopped by organized workers' capacity to strike and otherwise withhold their labor—has helped shift the balance of power in the anti-repression fight. UC officials and police officers were nowhere to be found at anti-TPM rally and, as of this writing, have backed away from TPM enforcement entirely. While this example is limited, we believe it illustrates the possibilities in cross-sectoral organizing on campuses, led by students and workers themselves. These efforts, if effectively expanded, can build and leverage the necessary power to confront both the state and acquiescent university administrators.

The strategy undertaken by workers and students at UCSC underscores another important lesson: We must always fight, dramatically and quickly, for free speech and the right to organize, advocate, and mount political action. However, it is essential in these cases to avoid getting bogged down in "legalitarianism." We cannot count on this society's legal apparatus to guarantee our civil liberties; and, we should not organize around civil libertarian issues as if it could. Rather, when our legal rights are violated, we should move as quickly as possible, without losing our popular base, to expand any sort of libertarian moral indignation into a multi-issues political insurgency, exposing the repressive character of the university administration and its specific role in fostering the authoritarian drift of US capitalist empire.

Conclusion

We harbor no illusions about the university as it actually exists. For the most part, higher education institutions function as smooth instruments of capitalist and imperialist order. They churn out certain products required by government and industry,exploit those who study or work within them, reproduce multiple forms of oppressive hierarchy, and tend to stymy independent intellectual development despite their pretensions otherwise.

At the same time, the academy is a terrain on which struggle can and does take place. For the university to live up to its stated aspirations of promoting intellectual autonomy, democracy, and equity, workers and students—not a superfluous administrative layer—would have to be the ones directly determining how it functions. But we cannot win our collective liberation by appealing to, let alone trying to save, the liberalism of the existing order. As such, there is no reason for us to elide *our* criticisms of the university while defending higher education from a right wing onslaught. We must attend to both fights at once.

The situation before us is one instance where these struggles have converged, its outcome sure to determine the conditions that university workers labor under and those which students learn under far into the future. Whether we are able to meet the moment is not a question of fate, but rather how effective we have been in developing a strategy and how deeply we have committed ourselves to seeing it through.

Jon Archer is an academic worker and rank-and-file member of UAW 4811

Alexandria H. is an academic worker and rank-and-file member of the California Faculty Association

Cameron Pádraig is an academic worker and rank-and-file member of UAW 4811

Photo by Thomas de LUZE on Unsplash

In Contempt #51: Thousands Hit the Streets Against Deportations and Authoritarian Crackdown, 'Imaginary Crimes' Tour Kicks Off

April 5, 2025

In this column, we present our monthly roundup of political prisoner, prison rebel, and repression news, happenings, announcements, action and analysis. Packed in as always are updates, fundraisers, and birthdays.

There's a lot happening, so let's *dive right in!*

Protests Erupt Following DHS Abduction of Mahmoud Khalil and Crackdown on Palestine Solidarity

"The group...dismissed the threat as "manufactured by Barnard administrators" to clear the protest...The student group launched its sit-in...in response to the expulsions of student protesters..." www.msn.com/en-us/news/u...

— It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-03-06T20:52:36.822Z

The Trump administration has moved to attack professors and international students, some permanent legal residents, by revoking their visas, abducting them off the streets, and throwing them into detention prisons - all for engaging in protests and speaking out in solidarity with Palestine. In early March, this wave of repression kicked off with the abduction and detention of Mahmoud Khalil, a move that was celebrated by the far-Right, ironically under the guise of "fighting anti-Semitism," despite Khalil being attacked under a law from 1952 that targeted Jews. Pro-Israel groups were quick to claim credit for the growing suppression of anti-war students, stating that

Socialists of America (DSA) fix broken tail lights on community members' cars for free with the hopes of eliminating a primary justification for police stopping, harassing, and potentially brutalizing particularly Black and Brown drivers.[16]

Clearly, FNB, MADR, and similar mutual aid projects involve general organizing: people working together to arrange social life.[17] A group that pulls off a weekly meal for the unhoused probably requires recruitment and outreach, perhaps even direct action to commandeer public space.[18] Participants may learn important self-management skills, like how to make, adopt, and implement collective decisions.[19] Their accessible "onramps" may even nurture networks of activists to experiment in other "transformative social action."

However, despite bringing people together, generating dialogue about political problems, and providing opportunities to build various skills, mutual aid on its own is not an example of the type of organizing that is necessary to bring about social revolution. For all the real benefits of mutual aid projects, they rarely build power except in the most abstract or technical sense among small groups of well-meaning activists; they do not undermine ruling power; and they rarely situate these relief efforts within an overarching revolutionary strategy.[20] Divorcing mutual aid projects from concrete power-oriented objectives leaves the "revolution" part of the Black Panther Party's slogan "Survival Pending Revolution"—a frequent reference for today's mutual aid projects—vague and abstract, untethered to any strategic program, revolutionary or otherwise. The result—whether a needle exchange, producing and distributing do-it-yourself air purifiers, a "really free store," water drops for crossing migrants—is survival pending...more survival.

Despite well-meaning initiatives and the temporary "paradises built in hell" they can help create, mutual aid and disaster relief efforts can never fully sow the seeds of the sorts of new social and property relations they promise to prefiguratively root. In most instances, mutual aid projects remain something activists *provide*. Moreover, mutual aid activists rarely extend these efforts and the relationships they create beyond the small groups of people involved while their efforts flounder in the wider social storm of domination, capitalist exploitation, and state oppression.[21] Neither can we assert that these projects fundamentally restructure how we relate to each other in lasting ways or on a large scale; the sheer number of people who remain disenfranchised and oppressed despite a notable rise in service projects and mutual aid efforts from 2005's Hurricane Katrina to present day speak to this pressing concern. If we want a liberated world for everyone, we can't sidestep the world we already have, or rely on fleeting prefigurative enclaves within it. We have to fight against domination, and that's what organizing is for.

This assertion coheres with working-class, Black, Brown, and/or Indigenous cultures to the extent that their community structures and values systems oppose (or even predate) settler colonialism, white supremacy, nation-states, and capitalism. Mutual aid is often, for instance, regarded as a central characteristic of Black anarchism. William C. Anderson links mutual aid to a Black experience of statelessness, citing various approaches used to counteract state neglect.[22] At the same time, Anderson notes that "as Indigenous anarchism, autonomous movements, and stateless people everywhere can surely attest, we cannot simply turn our back on the state and hope it goes away; nor can we seek new, or even old, ways of living outside the state and assume it will ignore us."[23] Mutual aid, he says, "must be done to sustain ourselves *as* we work to dismantle and take down the apparatuses of power. Without clear revolutionary content, mutual aid, survival programs, and even horizontalist organizing can be co-opted and absorbed into the state's infrastructure."[24]

To the extent that mutual aid *is* part of revolutionary struggle, it is largely found where mutual aid projects are embedded within social movements, from the crucial material support given to Indigenous anti-pipeline encampments and striking workers to the collective care that sustains police/prison abolition movements and immigration struggles.. Importantly, mutual aid should be understood as *one tactic* to support a broader organizing *strategy* in these communities, as opposed to the sum total of organizing itself. This is due in large part to an emphasis on the "mutual" (i.e. the reciprocal) aspect of "mutual aid," a key word in the term that is largely overlooked or misrepresented.

Putting the "Mutual" Back Into Mutual Aid

To illustrate this point, let's return to the Black Panthers' Free Breakfast for School Children and other "survival programs." These programs were clearly forms of mutual aid, but they did far more than fill an important community need; they allowed the BPP to build revolutionary Black power more effectively. In the case of the breakfast program, the children being fed (and their parents) listened to talks about Black liberation generally and the BPP specifically. The survival programs generated goodwill for the BPP in the community, increasing their acceptance and leadership.[25] They were used as propaganda tools to dramatize the failures of structurally racist institutions. Programs drew hordes of new recruits to the Party. They were also hubs for sharing information about Party actions and events.[26] As Chairman Huey P. Newton put it, "the survival programs are not answers or solutions, but they will help us to organize the community around a true analysis and understanding of their situation."[27] They fed into an overall revolutionary strategy.

When tied to concrete political action, mutual aid practices in mass organizing can reinforce efforts to build power by fostering new

specific forms of organizing. Founded in anarchism's organizational-dualist traditions of platformism and especifismo, BRRN organizes on the political and social levels. We created our federation to organize *ourselves* as anarchists, through a shared political program, a democratic structure to decide it, and a collective responsibility to adhere to it and carry it out (political organizing). We don't believe we're going to make any revolution on our own, though; for that, we need to organize broad-based, combative *social movements* (social or mass organizing).

The latter requirement is what we mean by "organizing": working with ordinary people to shape ourselves into a fighting force that is capable of standing up to and eventually dismantling capitalism, the state, and other structures of domination. This is distinct from a more general understanding of organizing: "an association for a particular purpose," where people use whatever means are needed to achieve that purpose, which Errico Malatesta argues is a "fundamental prerequisite of living in society."[2] In this sense, general organizing might refer to organizing a dinner party, organizing groups to clean up a beach, organizing a free-clothing drive, or even organizing a protest march.

By contrast, mass organizing is a question of power: building the power of our coworkers, neighbors, classmates, and other "actors of struggle" (i.e. people who share common problems and social locations) to dismantle the ruling class's dominating, atomizing power over us.[3] To do so, we build people's confidence to make demands and directly act against bosses, politicians, landlords, administrators, and other class enemies in order to win specific goals and shift relations of power in our workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and other arenas of social life. We encourage everyday people to run these struggles with formal, directly-democratic bodies—what we call mass organizations—that we can one day use to run all of society. By forging mass organizations that simultaneously develop our capacity to eventually overthrow those who immiserate our lives while prefiguring the society that we can collectively self-manage, we work toward social revolution. This, for us, is "organizing" in the focused, militant, and necessary sense of the word, and the primary one we believe capable of ushering in the world we deserve.[4]

Mutual Aid: Revolutionary Relief?

Unfortunately, many activists substitute broader general organizing—"an association for a particular purpose"—for specific and liberatory mass organizing. Contributing to the confusion, general organizing and mass organizing share some similar features despite different structures and goals. A closer look reveals that general organizing lacks the necessary elements of what we see as organizing proper: a clear, structural power-shift and practical steps to get from here to there. Mutual aid organizations and projects that see themselves as operating outside the state, capital, and the non-profit industrial complex are good examples of the tensions that exist between these different conceptions of organizing. They also exemplify ongoing arguments over how mutual aid should be defined.

Generally speaking, mutual aid projects attempt to sustain and save the lives of those who have been left behind or targeted by the state. As a whole, mutual aid projects often position themselves as "solidarity, not charity," uniting community-based service and/or resource distribution with attempts to "build shared understanding about why people do not have what they need."[5] These projects encourage participants to "cultivate a shared analysis of the root causes of the problem."[6] To do that, many mutual aid projects pair political education with service provision to cultivate "space[s] for inspiring discussion and action."[7] This education intends to help those who engage in mutual aid avoid the errors of charity: doling out relief based on hierarchies of deservingness and supporting their recipients as paternalistic saviors.[8] *Disaster Anarchy* author Rhiannon Firth punctuates the differences: "mutual aid," in contrast to charity, "presumes an equal footing" between all community members, regardless of who is receiving or offering services, support, and/or resources.[9]

Notably, mutual aid projects often emerge to meet crucial needs in times of acute crises. Recent interest in mutual aid efforts surged shortly after 2005 when anarchist-led projects like Common Ground Collective outshined Federal Emergency Management Agency's and large nonprofits' pitiful Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in New Orleans.[10] Inspired by these successes, activists formed Mutual Aid Disaster Relief (MADR) to coordinate communal medical services and get food and other supplies to people devastated by Hurricanes Sandy, Irma, and Maria.[11] Similarly, activists launched local networks and resource hubs for communities to support one another during the COVID-19 lockdowns by volunteering to grocery shop for one another, picking up prescriptions from pharmacies for neighbors, collaboratively running learning pods for each other's children, and more.[12]

Other projects aim to address ongoing crises like houselessness, hunger, police brutality, migrant safety, and unsafe drug use. For example, needle exchanges aim to slow the spread of AIDS and other bloodborne diseases by providing people who use intravenous drugs with new hypodermic needles and safely disposing of used ones.[13] Similarly, activists strategically place water, food, blankets, and other supplies to help migrants safely cross the southern border.[14] Others have replicated this strategy and deployed similar ones, such as Food Not Bombs (FNB) chapters that collectively cook and serve free meals to people who are homeless to expose the state's funding of war over social welfare and illustrate our capacity to provide for one another.[15] Members of Democratic

they were providing information to US officials. These actions also follow a push from the Heritage Foundation, one of the architects of Project 2025, to dismantle and suppress the Palestinian solidarity movement. The Trump administration is also using this move as a battering ram to attack public education as a whole, as the state pushes to reorganize elite institutions in its own image - with administrators seemingly only happy to comply.

As Momodou Taal, who recently left the US after being targeted multiple times for his activism stated on social media:

> The repression of Palestinian solidarity is now being used to wage a wholesale attack on any form of expression that challenges oppressive and exploitative relations in the U.S. ... For every person that has remained silent, just know that you are not safe either. Is the imprisonment of those who speak out against a genocide a reflection of your values? Is this the kind of nation you want to live in?

There has been mounting condemnation against the abductions by ICE, kicking off demonstrations and solidarity rallies across the US, as DHS also continues to carry out draconian raids against immigrant communities, directly targeting labor organizers like Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez in the Pacific Northwest, and provoking a constitutional crisis by invoking the Aliens Enemies Act, in a move which forced hundreds of migrants into a hard labor "anti-terrorism" super-prison in El Salvador.

> Labor union for Kilmar Garcia, who the Trump administration claims was sent "by mistake" to horrific hard-labor prison camp, puts out statement condemning this atrocity. In #Maryland, Garcia's wife and community are also rallying in protest to demand his return. www.smart-union.org/smart-stands...
>
> — It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-04-04T19:28:44.649Z

The Trump administration, through both a build up of repressive infrastructure and a well-funded media apparatus, is pushing to expand the boundaries of state violence and normalize the brutalization of dissidents and immigrants. Congress is already pressing various universities to disclose names of both international students involved in anti-war protests and students arrested during the recent wave of solidarity action. It's imperative that we all step up and put work into building social movements and take action in the streets against this rising authoritarianism.

> #BREAKING: POMONA COLLEGE SAYS IT WILL TURN OVER STUDENT DISCIPLINARY RECORDS TO CONGRESS:Pomona College said it would comply with a congressional request to hand over all disciplinary records related to pro-Palestine activity on campus.These schools are fascist collaborators
>
> — People's City Council - Los Angeles (@pplscitycouncil.bsky.social) 2025-03-29T03:32:50.241Z

From inside an ICE prison in Louisiana infamous for human rights abuses, Mahmoud has published an open letter which you can read here. A zine version for printing can be found here. formatted as a printable zine. Khalil writes:

> On March 8, I was taken by DHS agents who refused to provide a warrant, and accosted my wife and me as we returned from dinner. By now, the footage of that night has been made public. Before I knew what was happening, agents handcuffed and forced me into an unmarked car. At that moment, my only concern was for Noor's safety. I had no idea if she would be taken too, since the agents had threatened to arrest her for not leaving my side. DHS would not tell me anything for hours — I did not know the cause of my arrest or if I was facing immediate deportation. At 26 Federal Plaza, I slept on the cold floor. In the early morning hours, agents transported me to another facility in Elizabeth, New Jersey. There, I slept on the ground and was refused a blanket despite my request.

My arrest was a direct consequence of exercising my right to free speech as I advocated for a free Palestine and an end to the genocide in Gaza, which resumed in full force Monday night. With January's ceasefire now broken, parents in Gaza are once again cradling too-small shrouds, and families are forced to weigh starvation and displacement against bombs. It is our moral imperative to persist in the struggle for their complete freedom.

I was born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Syria to a family which has been displaced from their land since the 1948 Nakba. I spent my youth in proximity to yet distant from my homeland. But being Palestinian is an experience that transcends borders. I see in my circumstances similarities to Israel's use of administrative detention — imprisonment without trial or charge — to strip Palestinians of their rights. I think of our friend Omar Khatib, who was incarcerated without charge or trial by Israel as he returned home from travel. I think of Gaza hospital director and pediatrician Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, who was taken captive by the Israeli military on December 27 and remains in an Israeli torture camp today. For Palestinians, imprisonment without due process is commonplace.

I have always believed that my duty is not only to liberate myself from the oppressor, but also to liberate my oppressors from their hatred and fear. My unjust detention is indicative of the anti-Palestinian racism that both the Biden and Trump administrations have demonstrated over the past 16 months as the U.S. has continued to supply Israel with weapons to kill Palestinians and prevented international intervention. For decades, anti-Palestinian racism has driven efforts to expand U.S. laws and practices that are used to

violently repress Palestinians, Arab Americans, and other communities. That is precisely why I am being targeted.

Columbia targeted me for my activism, creating a new authoritarian disciplinary office to bypass due process and silence students criticizing Israel. Columbia surrendered to federal pressure by disclosing student records to Congress and yielding to the Trump administration's latest threats. My arrest, the expulsion or suspension of at least 22 Columbia students — some stripped of their B.A. degrees just weeks before graduation — and the expulsion of SWC President Grant Miner on the eve of contract negotiations, are clear examples.

If anything, my detention is a testament to the strength of the student movement in shifting public opinion toward Palestinian liberation. Students have long been at the forefront of change — leading the charge against the Vietnam War, standing on the frontlines of the civil rights movement, and driving the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Today, too, even if the public has yet to fully grasp it, it is students who steer us toward truth and justice.

Read the full statement here. Khalil's lawyers continue to fight in court for his release as he remains locked up in a detention facility in Louisiana, and have recently been successful in pushing the courts to move his case to New Jersey.

> Must read: Mahmoud Khalil speaks out for the first time since his arrest by the Trump administration in an exclusive letter, dictated over the phone to his family, from ICE detention in Louisiana.
>
> — Center for Constitutional Rights (@ccrjustice.org) 2025-03-18T21:50:03.608Z

For analysis, check out "Why Mahmoud?" from the Lake Effect Collective, which explores how the case fits into Trump's wider repressive strategy, "Why Trump Is So Desperate to Keep Mahmoud Khalil in Louisiana" by Shawn Musgrave at the *Intercept*, which looks at the different legal environments in New York and Louisiana, and an article by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg and Ethan Corey in the *Appeal*, that breaks down the brutal history of abuses at the Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center.

> "As organizers noted that 370 people have been arrested in the Boston area by ICE in the last week—with officials calling some "collateral" in Trump's mass deportation campaign—demonstrators chanted, "Free Rumeysa, free them all!" and "Come for one, face us all!" www.commondreams.org/news/r
>
> — It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-03-28T07:59:12.828Z

Beyond the specific case of Mahmoud Khalil, other attacks have included the detention and threatened deportation of Badar Khan Suri from Georgetown, following a public campaign against his wife, who is a US citizen from a Palestinian background, Momodou Taal at Cornell, Leqaa Kordia and Yunseo Chung from the Columbia encampment and Rumeysa Ozturk from Tufts, have also all been detained after being targeted for speaking out in solidarity with Palestine. Currently, Öztürk's legal team is fighting for her to receive access to medical care, as they continue to fight with the Trump administration in court for her release.

> HAPPENING NOW: 1000+ U.S. Jews are outside ICE headquarters in NYC demanding the release of Mahmoud Khalil and protest the Trump-Musk deportation agenda. We are Jews for freedom and democracy saying #FreeMahmoud
>
> — IfNotNow🔥✡ (@ifnotnowmovement.org) 2025-03-20T23:14:06.262Z

As part of the wider crackdown, Marco Rubio claims to have canceled more than 300 visas of people connected to the Palestine solidarity movement. According to a report in the *Times of India*, hundreds of international students have received emails asking them to "self-deport" for their solidarity with Palestine, which could be something as minor as sharing a social media post. Meanwhile in Canada, Montreal writer Yves Engler served a five-day prison sentence for harassment and obstruction of justice after describing a supporter of Israel as a "genocide supporter" and "fascist" on social media.

> Today in a powerful display of cross-movement solidarity, immigrant rights activists and Palestine activists mobilized together in Newark to demand freedom for Mahmoud Khalil and ICE out of our communities!
>
> — Sam Carliner (@saminthecan.bsky.social) 2025-03-28T17:04:18.117Z

Protests and demonstrations in solidarity with Mahmoud Khalil, Rumeysa Ozturk, and others targeted by the Trump administration are spreading. Labor unions which several targeted students belong to have launched campaigns and organized rallies in solidarity. Trump Tower in New York was flooded by demonstrators with Jewish Voice for Peace, who shut down the lobby of the building, demanding freedom for Khalil and denouncing fascist attacks on Palestinian solidarity activists.

> Jewish Voice for Peace is occupying Trump tower to demand Mahmoud Khalil's release, no muslim ban ever and to stop arming Israelwww.instagram.com/p/DHJ
>
> — Elia Ayoub (@ayoub.bsky.social) 2025-03-13T19:10:12.111Z

Demonstrations in solidarity with targeted students have been organized across the country, mobilizing thousands in rallies and marches on campuses and in city centers. Students have organized walkouts on campus and at Columbia university in New York, Jewish students carried out a lockdown and rally to demand freedom for Khalil.

this strategy in the context of recent U.S. movement history? Dr. Michael Loadenthal, antifascist data researcher and terrorism studies scholar, joins *Outlaw* to help answer these questions. Conversation topics include: how post-9/11 counter-terrorism policy shapes repression of social movements today, the Green Scare and the emergence of "domestic terrorism" and "eco-terrorism," the targeting of non-citizen student activists like Mahmoud Khalil, and much more. The episode closes with a brief update on the Stop Cop City criminal cases.

Intro & Outro Music: Tortuguita by Brass Tapestry

Michael Loadenthal's Work:

The Prosecution Project

Published Research & Writing

Bluesky

Stop Cop City Fundraisers

Final Straw: Stop Cop City "Imaginary Crimes Tour"

March 31, 2025

Long-running anarchist radio and podcast show *The Final Straw* speaks with "Imaginary Crimes" tour participants.

This week, we're sharing an interview with Selena who speaks about the "Stop Cop City: Imaginary Crimes Tour" and Jordan, a RICO defendant from the Stop Cop City 61 case. The two speak about anti-repression, about where the case is at right now and a wider view of resistance and support. The tour will be hitting over 60 cities (not all in the USA).

From their tour announcement:

> 61 people are facing RICO trials in Atlanta for alleged involvement in resistance to the construction of Cop City. The State uses imaginary associations and crimes, framed as RICO, as a means to break solidarity and momentum when movements are strong. Anti-repression is a response that uses an alternate imagination to strengthen solidarity and resistance.
>
> In Spring 2025, a nationwide tour will visit over 60 cities to discuss the history of the Atlanta forest, the resistance to Cop City, history of RICO, ongoing legal updates and facilitate discussions on anti-repression and movement defense. Through this tour we aim to share the lessons we have learned across struggles, and adapt to the evolving repressive forces so that we can continue to move bravely together.□□
>
> Stay updated here:
>
> - www.instagram.com/sccimagi
> - linktr.ee/sccimaginarycrimestc
> - tinyurl.com/SCCImaginaryCr (announcements only signal chat)□□

If you want some more content on the struggle, check out this really interesting episode of Audio Interference, a podcast associated with the Interference Archive in Brooklyn's Park Slope neighborhood featuring materials from and discussion of a September 2024 installation entitled "Archiving Stop Cop City: This Is Not A Local Struggle."

To hear past episodes of ours on the Stop Cop City movement, check out this link.

Photo by Ben Koorengevel on Unsplash

Survival of the Organized: Critical Reflections on Organizing and Mutual Aid

March 31, 2025

Critical discussion around mutual aid organizing from the Black Rose/Rosa Negra Anarchist Federation.

If you've spent any time among people who want to better our world, you've probably heard a lot of talk about "organizing." In the United States, activists use this term to describe any number of activities intended to oppose oppression, from planning protests, electioneering for a candidate, and feeding unhoused neighbors to building a new political party, writing zines, enlisting coworkers to join a union drive, and more. Particularly during times of rupture and precarity, calls to "organize" proliferate as more people become aware of and motivated to fight. Converging crises that more blatantly expose the state and capitalism's chokehold on all facets of contemporary life have increasingly driven calls among organizers to center mutual aid. Although seemingly unified by a focus on helping each other survive state abandonment and persecution, "mutual aid" encompasses such a wide range of activities, projects, and people that its meaning—and whether it *is* a form of organizing—has become difficult to ascertain.

In the hopes of better aligning our revolutionary efforts with their intended outcomes, we attempt to clarify both organizing and mutual aid below. Specifically, we describe what organizing means to Black Rose/Rosa Negra (BRRN)—building popular power through social movements and their mass organizations—and what it looks like. We also explain how important practices like mutual aid—working outside of and against the state to collectively pool and redistribute resources, skills, and other necessities—may relate to and support our efforts to build a new world in the shell of the old.[1] Although mutual aid is an important, often imperative facet of revolutionary struggle, we argue that it is not and should not be used as a synonym for organizing because it does not confront—and therefore cannot change—unjust power structures on its own. However, by planting mutual aid within organizing campaigns and returning it to its mutual roots, we can create conditions within mass organizations that prefigure the kinds of social relationships that will truly liberate us.

What is Organizing?

Revolutionizing the world requires

"shot a video of helicopters and sent it to a destructive media resource" - Art. 361-4 of the Criminal Code (assistance to an extremist formation).

Belarusian prisons will usually only accept letters in Belarusian or Russian, so if you don't speak one of those languages your best bet is to email your message to belarus_abc(AT)riseup.net or use this online form and they should be able to translate your greetings and pass them on.

Birthday: April 2

Address:

(Belarusian or Russian letters only · use this form for English messages)

Pyshnik (Chimpoyesh) Anna Gennadyevna
IK № 4, ul. Antoshkina 3, Gomel, 246035

Roy Brown

Ferguson rebel convicted of looting during the Ferguson uprising, along with other unrelated robbery charges. Missouri uses Securus, so you can send him a message by going to securustech.net, clicking "inmate search", then selecting "State: Missouri, Inmate ID: 1310047".

Birthday: April 20

Address:

Roy Brown #1310047
C/O Digital Mail Center-Missouri DOC
PO Box 25678
Tampa, FL 33622-5678

Pavel Shpteny

Pavel Shpetny was detained on 2 March 2021 under a criminal case against the anarchist movement from Brest region. ABC Belarus add "We are unaware of his political views, but since he is detained under the anarchists' case, we consider it important to support him in every possible way."

Belarusian prisons will usually only accept letters in Belarusian or Russian, so if you don't speak one of those languages your best bet is to email your message to belarus_abc(AT)riseup.net or use this online form and they should be able to translate your greetings and pass them on.

Birthday: April 22

Address:

(Belarusian or Russian letters only · use this form for English messages)
IK № 2, ul. Sikorskogo, 1 g. Bobruysk, 213800, Belarus
Pavel Aleksandrovich Shpetny

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia is an award winning journalist and was one of the founders of the Black Panther Party chapter in Philadelphia, PA. He has struggled for justice and human rights for people of color since he was at least 14 years old; the age when he joined the Party. In December of 1982, Mumia, who moonlighted by driving a taxi, happened upon police who were beating his brother. During the melee, a police officer was shot and killed. Despite the fact that many people saw someone else shoot and then run away from the scene, Mumia, in what could only be called a kangaroo court, was convicted and sentenced to death. During the summer of 1995, a death warrant was signed by Governor Tom Ridge, which sparked one of the most effective organizing efforts in defense of a political prisoner ever. Since that time, Mumia has had his death sentence overturned, but still has a life sentence with no opportunity for parole.

Pennsylvania uses Connect Network/GTL, so you can contact him online by going to connectnetwork.com, selecting "Add a facility", choosing "State: Pennsylvania, Facility: Pennsylvania Department of Corrections", going into the "messaging" service, and then adding Mumia as a contact by searching his name or "AM8335."

Birthday: April 24

Address:

Smart Communications/PA DOC
Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335
SCI Mahanoy
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733

Janiis Mathis

A former Vaughn 17 defendant.

Delaware uses Pigeonly for digital mail services.

Birthday: April 24

Address:

Janiis Mathis
SBI# 00492275
Delaware DOC - 1101
PO Box 96777
Las Vegas, NV 89193

cover photo: Tacoma IWW

Outlaw: Everyone's a Terrorist with Michael Loadenthal

March 31, 2025

Introducing *Outlaw*, a new podcast on "how the law is being used to repress liberation movements, and what we can do about it."

Listen and Download **HERE**

Outlaw is an interview-driven podcast exploring how the law is wielded to suppress social movements in the U.S. and the strategies used to resist it. Through conversations with political prisoners, criminalized activists, their support teams, and legal experts, we aim to demystify legal repression for those involved in activism and provide valuable insights and resources for those engaged in legal work to support movements.

Why is the government obsessed with labeling activists on the left terrorists?Find out on our first episode — "Everyone's a Terrorist with @mloadenthal.bsky.social " — out now wherever you get your podcasts.

— Outlaw Podcast (@outlawpod.bsky.social) 2025-03-19T19:27:04.600Z

Why is the government obsessed with framing leftist activists as terrorists? How can we understand

Western Washington labor showing up in solidarity with, and demanding the release of, union members who have been detained by ICE

— Richard Becker (@rbb360.bsky.social) 2025-03-28T00:55:31.003Z

Demonstrations in solidarity with Palestine have also continued on campus, with demonstrators at UCLA taking over a building demanding divestment from the UC board of regents.

UCLA STUDENTS BUILDING TAKEOVERRIGHT NOW-students have take over the engineering 4 building & renamed it Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh"DISCLOSE, DIVEST, WE WILL NOT STOP WE WILL NOT REST!""UCPD KKK IOF YOURE ALL THE SAME!"

— People's City Council - Los Angeles (@pplscitycouncil.bsky.social) 2025-03-19T18:47:30.273Z

Political Prisoner News

The campaign to free Chicano anarchist political prisoner Xinachtli recently held a public meeting in Austin, Texas.

The *Rattling the Cages* series of talks continues, and the most recent event, "Looking Back at the George Jackson Brigade," can be watched online here.

A transcribed version of the George Jackson Brigade talk is available as a printed zine here, and the previous event, "Abolition is a Family Affair" has also now been turned into a zine. The zines and videos from all previous events are now collected on a single page at the Zinn Education Project.

Eric King also has another upcoming book, *A Clean Hell: Anarchy and Abolition in America's Most Notorious Dungeon*, looking at experiences from the ADX Supermax. Other writing projects from former political prisoners include *A Luta Continua*, a zine series about global solidarity from James Kilgore, and *City Time*, a new history of Rikers' Island from David Campbell and Jarrod Shanahan. You can read a review of *City Time* from Certain Days Collective member and Rattling the Cages co-editor Josh Davidson here. Josh Davidson also recently interviewed the author of a new biography of former political prisoner Martin Sostre.

The Certain Days Collective have now put out a call for submissions for the 2026 calendar, with a deadline of Friday, May 31st for outside contributors and June 14th for prisoner submissions.

Unicorn Riot have published a new video and accompanying article on Leonard Peltier's release after 49 years in Federal custody.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was recently interviewed by Turkish outlet *Evrensel*.

As part of the Trump administration's wider attacks on trans people, earth liberation prisoner Marius Mason has now been moved back to a women's prison. You can now write to Marius by sending letters to:

Marie Mason #04672-061
FCI Danbury
Route 37
Danbury, CT 06811

Supporters of elderly Black Liberation prisoner Imam Jamil Al-Amin, formerly known as H Rap Brown, are finishing a documentary about his case, and are seeking donations to help finish the film and get it released.

Brian "Peppy" DiPeppa has recently shared short statements, saying:

When I read your letters, my soul escapes this place to walk alongside you, to commune; and with a big inhale I share our smiles with others experiencing incarceration. Thank you for reaching through these windowless walls. Respect and solidarity to all the bravehearts!

And:

May we find inspiration and creativity in these challenging times. Let us be guided by friendship and self determination. May we mind our pace, study our ancestors, listen to our storytellers and run towards expansive freedom and autonomy. Solidarity to all those held captive by the state and their loved ones on the outside, your work is felt even if it is not always the most visible.

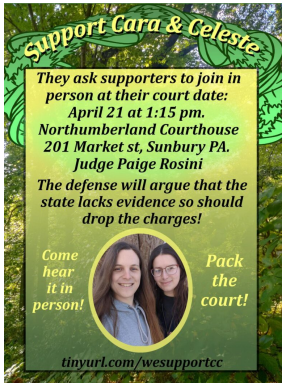
Peppy has recently been moved to a new facility. Write to Peppy here:

Brian DiPippa #66590-510
FCI Elkton
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O Box 10
Lisbon, OH 44432

George Floyd Uprising Defendants, Stop Cop City and Other Ongoing Cases

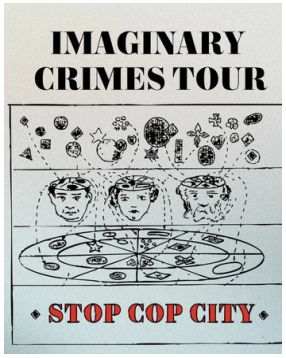
11 out of 12 defendants facing charges in a case connected to resistance against the Mountain Valley Pipeline recently accepted non-cooperating plea deals, which did not involve any prison or jail time. An interview with one of the defendants has now been turned into a printable zine.

The new wave of resistance against Musk and Tesla has already begun leading to some arrests, with one woman in Colorado facing felony charges for alleged actions against Tesla dealerships. *404 Media* have published an article on how three alleged Tesla vandals were identified by law enforcement, and an archived, non-paywalled version, is available here.


Support Cara & Celeste
They ask supporters to join in person at their court date:
April 21 at 1:15 pm.
Northumberland Courthouse
201 Market st, Sunbury PA.
Judge Paige Rosini
The defense will argue that the state lacks evidence so should drop the charges!
Come hear it in person!
Pack the court!
tinyurl.com/wesupportcc

Cara and Celeste, who are facing charges connected to an alleged mink liberation action, have a court date scheduled for April 21st in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, where the defense will present a motion arguing for their charges to be dismissed. Donations to their legal funds can be made via Philly ABC here.

Several defendants from the Stop Cop City RICO case have filed civil lawsuits seeking damages from the City of Atlanta and Atlanta police over their treatment. *The Final Straw Radio* also recently broadcast an interview with one of the RICO defendants alongside one of the organizers of the upcoming Stop Cop City: Imaginary Crimes tour, which will be visiting over 60 cities.



The support crew for Jack in Atlanta have released an update for March:

> We just wanted to provide a brief update on where things are at with Jack and his case. First, some good news! Jack was recently given permission to leave Georgia for a week to spend time with his family in Florida. He was able to leave the Atlanta metro-area for the first time in over a year and was able to jump in the (freezing cold) ocean which brought him a lot of joy (see above :^)). He also just celebrated his birthday and was grateful to spend it with friends and family after spending his last one in Fulton County Jail.
>
> Jack's case continues to move forward at a very slow pace. His last court date was on December 2nd. At this court date the state argued 8 motions to admit various things into trial. These included alleged reimbursements from the nonprofit entity at the center of the stop cop city RICO case for things like stickers and yard signs, photos of Jack from the city council meeting where funding for cop city was approved, and a video and article that the state alleges connect Jack to a New Years Zapatista gathering in the mountains of Chiapas, Mexico. The prosecution believe these things prove that Jack is a leader of the movement. They did not, however, demonstrate how any of these things are related to the act he is being charged with. The Judge was skeptical of the states narrative and told the prosecution that they should not expect anything related to the RICO case to be admitted. She said she would have to review the motions before issuing a verdict on them and that she would do so before the end of 2024. As of March 2025, she has not ruled on the motions and no next court date has been scheduled.
>
> It has been over a year now since Jack was arrested in his home. He continues to have an ankle monitor and an 8pm curfew despite not being convicted of any crime. In the face of this state repression, Jack remains strong and grateful for all the support he has in his life.
>
> We still need to raise the remaining funds required for Jack's legal defense, consider dropping him some coin for his birthday. Tabling materials and additional resources can be found here, please continue to uplift Jack and all Stop Cop City defendants!
>
> With love
> -Jack Support Crew

An updated zine of current George Floyd uprising prisoners is available to print here, along with a zine of recent writings from Portland uprising prisoner Malik Muhammad. Pennsylvania uprising defendant Khalif Miller has now completed his federal sentence and been moved to a state prison to serve a state sentence for violating parole. His new address is:

Khalif Miller
#QQ9287
Camp Hill
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

The ongoing state attack on reproductive rights has escalated, with the Texas Attorney General bringing felony charges against a midwife for allegedly providing abortions. An article from *TruthOut* write:

> Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced the arrest of Maria Margarita Rojas on March 17. The Houston-area midwife faces up to 20 years in prison for allegedly performing illegal abortions — a second-degree felony — and practicing medicine without a license. The chilling announcement marks Texas's first criminal case against a health care provider since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned in 2022. Two of Rojas's employees, Jose Ley and Rubildo Matos, were also arrested.
>
> Before her arrest, Rojas ran Clínicas Latinoamericanas, a group of low-cost health clinics primarily serving northwest Houston's Spanish-speaking community. Three facilities were effectively shut down on March 20, when a judge granted a temporary restraining order filed by Paxton's office. Patients seeking affordable, necessary health care such as ultrasounds, vaccinations and medical exams for immigration procedures will been acquitted.

Unoffensive Animal have managed to interview Sindre, a Swedish animal liberation prisoner who has just been released from a closed psychiatric ward.

Chilean anarchists have issued an international call for anarchist and anti-carceral poets. Meanwhile, Chilean anarchist prisoner Marcelo Villarroel has reached 17 years in prison, having been held for over a year past the end of his sentence. Chilean comrades have also shared an update on the case of anarchist prisoners Aldo and Lucas Hernandez, as well as the conditions of isolation faced by anarchist prisoner Francisco Solar.

> My report for @thenation.com on Viktor Orbán's attempt to track down counter-demonstrators of a 2023 neo-Nazi rally in Budapest. A French court will soon decide on the extradition of one of them: Rexhino "Gino" Abajaz.www.thenation.com/article
>
> — Harrison Stetler (@harrstetler.bsky.social) 2025-03-27T11:04:28.374Z

Salvatore "Ghespe" Vespertino, an anarchist accused of an explosive attack against a fascist bookstore in Italy, has been arrested in Spain and extradited to Italy, where he is now being held in Spoleto prison.

Greek anarchist prisoner Nikos Maziotis has shared new writings, including one looking at his case and the history of the Revolutionary Struggle group, and a contribution given to the launch of his comrade Pola Roupa's book "State Against Commune."

Moscow ABC report that 18-year-old anarchist Lyubov Lizunova has been transferred to a prison colony in Tomsk, and have shared birthday greetings for anarchist prisoner Andrey Chernov.

The Nation has published an important report on the Budapest Antifa case and the Europe-wide co-operation with Orban's far-right government in attacking antifascists. Gino, one of the defendants, has now been released, and faces a hearing on April 9 which will decide if he is deported from from France to Hungary.

Uprising Defendants

See Uprising Support for more info, and check out the Antirepression PDX site for updates from Portland cases. You can also check With Whatever Weapons for regularly-updated zines listing current prisoners. To the best of our knowledge they currently include:

Tyre Means 49981-086
USP Victorville
US Penitentiary
P.O. Box 3900
Adelanto, CA 92301

Margaret Channon 49955-086
FCI Tallahassee
P.O. Box 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Malik Muhammad #23935744
Snake River Correctional
777 Stanton Blvd
Ontario, OR 97914

Montez Lee 22429-041
FCI Ray Brook
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 900
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Matthew White #21434-041
USP Terre Haute
PO Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Matthew Rupert #55013-424
USP Big Sandy
US Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

José Felan #54146-380
FCI Terre Haute
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

David Elmakayes 77782-066
FCI McKean
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 8000
Bradford, PA 16701

Khalif Miller #QQ9287
Camp Hill
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Alvin Joseph 1002016959
Hays State Prison
PO Box 668
Trion, GA 30753

John Wade #1003510744
PO Box 3877
Jackson, GA 30233

Aline Espinosa-Villegas #22814-509
FMC Carswell
P.O. Box 27137
Fort Worth, Texas 76127

Address letter to Angel, address envelope to Aline A Espinosa-Villegas.

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho #08572-509
FCI Beaumont Medium
P.O. Box 26040
Beaumont, TX 77720

Christopher Tindal 04392-509
FCI Cumberland
PO Box 1000
Cumberland, MD 21501

Upcoming Birthdays

Georges Ibrahim Abdallah

Lebanese revolutionary political prisoner held in French prisons since 1984. There is currently a call for an international day of solidarity on April 2nd, and April 17 is traditionally observed as Palestinian Prisoners' Day. A court recently ordered his release, but the French state appealed against the ruling, so the final decision is currently scheduled to be made in June.

Birthday: April 2

Address:

Mr. Georges Ibrahim ABDALLAH
2388/A221
CP de Lannemezan
204 rue des Saligues
BP 70166
65307 LANNEMEZAN
France

Hanna/Anna Pyshnik

Hanna Pyshnik (Chympajesh) was detained on 22 March 2022 in Mozyr and shares anti-fascist views. According to the prosecution, she

court, but Jessie Hoffman Jr was executed in the first Louisiana execution for 15 years, along with Aaron Gunches in Arizona, Wendell Grissom in Oklahoma and Edward James in Florida. Moises Sandoval Mendoza is currently scheduled to be executed in Texas on April 23rd.

General Prison News and Abolitionist Media Updates

> Why is the government obsessed with labeling activists on the left terrorists?Find out on our first episode — "Everyone's a Terrorist with @mloadenthal.bsky.social " — out now wherever you get your podcasts.
>
> — Outlaw Podcast (@outlawpod.bsky.social) 2025-03-19T19:27:04.600Z

There's a new podcast out, *Outlaw,* which discusses state repression and resistance movements pushing back against it.

A Texas lawmaker has introduced a bill that would allow trans people to be charged with "gender identity fraud," although it seems unlikely that the bill will make it into law in the near future.

The Texas prison system is facing continued criticism for its failure to respond to a DoJ investigation which found that children in Texas' juvenile prisons were subject to excessive force, sexual abuse and prolonged isolation.

Inquest magazine has published a major report on the prisoners burning themselves at Red Onion in Virginia, along with an article by Virginia prisoner Shebri Dillon on how she ended up with a 39-year sentence.

Jarrod Shanahan has a new interview in *Truthout* looking at the recent New York prison guard strike in wider historical and social context.

Incarcerated Texas writer Jason Renard Walker has published three new articles on the Trump administration, looking at his authoritarian policies and nazi symbolism, racist dogwhistles, and contradictions and lies.

Unicorn Riot continues to cover Minnesota prisoner Philip Vance's efforts to overturn his conviction, and also published a new article on criminal charges being brought against Michelle Skroch, the director of nursing who was in charge of the Beltrami County Jail in Minnesota at the time that 27-year-old inmate Hardel Sherrell was killed by medical neglect.

International

Freedom News has a report from a talk given by former UK anarchist prisoner Toby Shone in Brighton. Sean Middlebrough, a Palestine solidarity prisoner held in the UK prison system, has started a podcast, *Diaries of a Political Prisoner*. *Novara Media* has a new article on the Filton 18 in the UK, and which you can read here. From the report:

> As things stand, Kamio's trial is set for November 2025 - 15 months after her initial arrest along with nine fellow activists affiliated to protest group Palestine Action. Until then she will languish in prison, serving the equivalent of a two and a half year sentence without being found guilty of any crime. When the group finally stands before a jury, there is a strong chance they will not be convicted. Over the last four years, Palestine Action's activists have often been acquitted by juries on the grounds of "necessity to save Palestinians lives".

On 6 August, Palestine Action published a video which it said showed "a glimpse of how actionists used a repurposed prison van to break inside" the facility. The video shows a van crashing through a fence as activists shout "go, go go!" This was the first time Palestine Action targeted Elbit's £35m research and development site in Filton, and the action cost the company over £1m in damages.

Elbit, the maker of the Iron Sting precision-guided bomb, provides up to 85% of the land-based equipment procured by the Israeli military and about 85% of its drones, according to Database of Israeli Military and Security Export. It has over a dozen sites across the UK. Palestine Action claims that its disruptive protests are behind the closure of three of them.

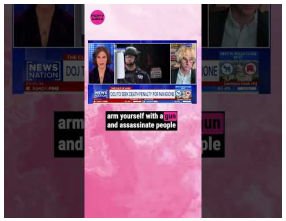
On 6 August, and in the days after, police swooped on Kamio and nine others. In late November, the police made a further eight arrests via another spree of home raids across the UK, some at gunpoint. The group, most of whom are in their twenties or thirties, are currently being held at HMP Wormwood Scrubs, HMP Bronzefield and HMP Eastwood Park on charges of criminal damage, violent disorder and aggravated burglary, albeit with a "terrorism link" that the Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) says it will argue at the point of sentencing.

Ellie's mother Emma was also arrested in the days after the Filton action, on suspicion of affray and aggravated burglary. Emma, a small business-owner living in Wales, said riot police raided her home without a warrant, despite having already arrested her daughter. "I was half naked [when they came in]," she said "They seized my work laptop, and my 16-year-old's school laptop, handcuffed me and then led me away."

Emma was kept by the police in solitary confinement for five days. "I disappeared from my family almost a week before they released me without charge and without apology, my life and my business upside down. I was left traumatised, in prison scrubs, 150 miles from my home, feeling like an animal. [My crime] was raising a young woman with a great moral compass."

The International Anti-Fascist Defence Fund have been supporting defendants facing charges for resisting deportations in London, and report that so far, three groups of defendants, numbering 14 in total, have all either had their charges dropped or now have to look elsewhere for services.

The Trumpian DOJ has moved to charge Luigi Mangione, suspect in the killing of a United Healthcare CEO, with the death penalty.



Fight Against Mass Deportations and Detention

Attacks on immigrant communities continue to ramp up, as people mobilize to push back. *TruthOut* have published an article looking at ICE's partnership with companies such as GEO Group to provide the capacity for mass incarceration of migrants. In one example of this, CoreCivic plans to re-open a recently closed detention center to hold families in South Texas.

Recent examples of high-profile attacks on migrant activists have included the detention of Jeanette Vizguerra in Colorado and Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez Zeferino in Washington. Alireza Doroudi, an Iranian engineering student, has also been detained in Alabama on unclear grounds.

Rally against attacks on migrants in Tacoma, WA

La Resistencia continue their long-running work organizing with detainees at the Northwest Detention Center, and report that Venezuelan migrants detained at the NWDC are facing potential transfer to Arizona and then to Guantanamo or El Salvador's brutal prisons, despite their requests for deportation. A mass rally was recently held outside of the NWDC. The *Seattle Times* reported:

> Hundreds of union members and other protesters gathered outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Tacoma on Thursday evening to rally against the detainment of two Washington residents being held there.
>
> The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, called on union members and community supporters to gather outside the Northwest ICE Processing Center to demand the release of "union siblings" Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez and Lewelyn Dixon, both of whom have lived in the U.S. since they were young teenagers.
>
> Juarez, a 25-year-old union farmworker and activist, was arrested Tuesday morning in Sedro-Woolley while driving his partner to work. A member of the Indigenous Mexican Mixteco community, Juarez has organized for farmworker rights in Washington since he was 14 years old. Other union organizers said they feared Juarez was targeted by ICE because of his activism.
>
> Dixon, a green card holder, is an SEIU Local 925 member who works as a lab technician at UW Medicine. She has lived in the U.S. for more than five decades, having left the Philippines when she was 14. Friday will be Dixon's one-month mark of being held at the facility.
>
> Protesters framed the arrests not only as attacks on immigrants but also attacks on union workers and free speech rights. Several people held signs calling Juarez a "political prisoner."

The Tacoma chapter of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) reported on the recent rally outside of the facility:

> Solidarity with all immigrants and refugees! Today, we attended the rally at the Northwest Detention Center right here in Tacoma to support all immigrants detained in immigration detention.
>
> The labor movement showed up in force, multiple labor unions, community members and organizations demanding the release of immigrant union members and leaders, Lewelyn Dixon member of SEIU Local 925 and union leader Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez of Familias Unidas por la Justicia
>
> We know that these attacks against immigrant and undocumented communities as well as labor unions by the capitalist class have been happening for decades, even centuries at this point. They are systemic and structural, and are part of the root causes; capitalism, imperialism and colonialism. We continue the fight!

Mother Jones has a detailed story on the cases of Venezuelans who have already been labelled as gang members and sent to El Salvador, with many of them seeming to have been targeted solely on the basis of having tattoos.

A new "United States Disappeared Tracker" can be found here.

> Labor union for Kilmar Garcia, who the Trump administration claims was sent "by mistake" to horrific hard-labor prison camp, puts out statement condemning this atrocity. In #Maryland, Garcia's wife and community are also rallying in protest to demand his return. www.smart-union.org/smart-stands...
>
> — It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-04-04T19:28:44.649Z

The labor union which Maryland resident Kilmar Garcia belongs to has issued a statement attacking his deportation to a hard-labor prison camp in El Salvador. According to the Trump administration, his removal was caused "by mistake." A judge has recently ruled that the Trump administration must return

him to the US and Garcia's family is currently holding demonstrations in solidarity with his battle to fight deportation.

The Trump administration has dropped a lawsuit against Southwest Key Programs, a private company running migrant shelters which was accused of widespread child abuse. The *Texas Tribune* reports:

> According to allegations in the 2024 lawsuit, Southwest Key employees, including supervisors, raped, inappropriately touched or solicited sex and nude images of children beginning in 2015 and possibly earlier... Children were warned not to report the alleged abuse and threatened with violence against themselves or their families if they did, according to the lawsuit. Victims testified that in some instances, other workers knew about the abuse but failed to report or concealed it, the complaint said.

Oakland Abolition & Solidarity took part in a recent demonstration against the proposal to re-open FCI Dublin as an ICE detention center. They report:

> A coalition of immigration advocates, prison survivors, abolitionists and others mobilized and initiated the call for a mass demonstration in Dublin on March 1. We and dozens of other groups endorsed the call.
>
> From a thank you email from the Dublin Prison Solidarity Coalition to the hundreds of people who attended and supported the call:
>
> *"As organizers of the March 1 ICE OUT OF DUBLIN rally, we want to thank all of you tremendously for demonstrating our collective demand that the shuttered Dublin women's prison never be turned into an ICE detention center!*
>
> *Over 500 people heard powerful testimony from Dublin abuse survivors, ICE detention survivors, and their loved ones about the horrors of staff sexual abuse, medical neglect, retaliation, solitary confinement, and family separation in both Bureau of Prison (BOP) and ICE facilities. We waved banners and homemade signs, chanted, distributed flyers and informational cards, and committed ourselves to continuing this fight.*

They also highlight that California governor Gavin Newsom has vowed to veto a bill that would limit collaboration between the California prison system and ICE.

> Our March newsletter is out!- Hundreds turn out against reopening FCI-Dublin for ICE detention- Mills College's push for its own police department implodes- The latest b.s. from Gov Newsom- Fighting back against anti-homeless ordinances- How to support and tap in!mailchi.mp/6e7949422cfe...
>
> — Oakland Abolition & Solidarity (@oaklandabosol.bsky.social) 2025-03-15T16:32:31.904Z

Demonstrations and protests continue across the US against ICE. Students continue to organize walkouts against attacks on migrants, communities are banding together to denounce ICE raids, and rallies call for the closure of ICE prisons and to denounce collaboration with law enforcement.

Northeastern University Police Scheme Defeated

Oakland Abolition & Solidarity report that a recent attempt to create a new police department for Northeastern University in Oakland has now been abandoned. They write:

> Last month it was reported that the administration of Mills College, now a subsidiary campus of Northeastern University, was trying to create its own new police department that would police not only the campus but a vast swath of the flatlands of East Oakland and had pledged $20 million to make it happen.
>
> Central to this scheme was Clay Burch, a former OPD captain who scored a gig as the "Global Site Security/Regional Security Director" for Northeastern. Burch partnered up with "East Oakland Neighbors", a group recently brought to life last month by two people who do not live in East Oakland. EON has only one project - an advocacy campaign to pressure the city into welcoming this new police department. The initial proposal by Northeastern was detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding presented to the city in August 2024 is the product of lobbying the city on "campus security" since 2023. The proposal though was blocked by the City Attorney who cited legal problems with the project as it was then described. The response of EON was to plan a networking and public relations campaign dubbed "Special Election Initiative" looking to extract pledges of support for this police department from candidates in Oakland's upcoming April special election for mayor.
>
> EON embarked upon creating a series of surveys, the first of which was circulated in February. The hope was to use these survey results as a tool to spin the imposition of more police as a legitimate and popular demand.
>
> The first survey is over and we here at AbSol have obtained the results. And as skewed and curated as the survey questions were, the results aren't exactly delivering what EON was looking for:
>
> - 67.5% of the 400 plus respondents explicitly opposed the creation of a university based police department
> - Majority of respondents replied they felt "reasonably safe,"citing "traffic safety" most often as their public safety concern.
>
> So is the project moving forward?
>
> Well, after the press coverage of the surprising scheme and an ad hoc mobilization of Oaklanders opposed to more policing, Northeastern is disavowing Clay Burch who suddenly no longer works for Northeastern. Resigned? Fired? Northeastern refuses to specify but either way, Northeastern wasn't happy and Burch is gone.
>
> "Recent reports and rumors that Northeastern University is planning to build a police force to patrol and surveill East Oakland are categorically false and completely without merit. No such agreement exists. Assertions to the contrary made to East Oakland Neighbors and the Oaklandside reporters are false and misleading. The information these assertions were based on were attributed to a former Northeastern employee who misrepresented the university's position." - Nikki Lowy, Northeastern's "Director of City & Community Outreach & Programming" in an email to EON
>
> So Burch is gone, Northeastern isn't pushing the project as initially described and the fakey "neighborhood group" is left empty handed having gotten survey results that leave their doomloop narrative and push for more cops unsupported.
>
> With Northeastern hitting "reset", EON has called off their "Special Election Initiative" while turning their focus towards possible future schemes.
>
> Stay tuned.
>
> To get in touch with the Oakland residents mobilizing ad hoc around this, you can email oaklandcare@protonmail.com

For more reporting, see this article for *Oakland Side*.

Abolitionist Organizing Updates

Crimethinc has published a report from the recent Florida Abolitionist Gathering. From the report:

> From February 28 to March 2, hundreds of abolitionists and anarchists from across the country converged in Gainesville for the first Florida Abolitionist Gathering (FAG). Across a passionate weekend of workshops, films, food, debate, ritual, and protest, the contours of a robust regional resistance movement came into focus. The intergenerational, heavily queer and trans, and strongly multi-issue and anarchist group of abolitionists that converged in Florida articulated an expansive vision of liberation anchored in the urgent need to dismantle the prison-industrial complex in all its manifestations. The gathering showed that even as liberals wring their hands about the death of democracy, scrappy groups of organizers continue to fight back—and sometimes win—deep within the belly of the beast.

Mongoose Distro has recently shared a new edition of the prisoner zine IB64, parts two, three and four in Sean Swain's series of letters to the Ohio prison system director Annette Chambers-Smith, and a direct action report from the Texas prison system from Comrade Z. Comrade Z is appealing for more people to get involved in organizing with him, and can be contacted through Securus or by writing to:

Julio A. Zuniga "Z" #1961551
PO Box 660400
Dallas, TX 75266-0400

Reports from prisoners also suggest that the Hughes Unit and Roach Unit in the Texas prison system both saw uprisings recently, although there is no outside media coverage of this at present.

In Indiana, IDOC Watch have established Solidarity Links, a new emergency phone line, and recently organized phone zaps in support of Muslim prisoners facing harassment during Ramadan and Khalfani Malik Khaldun who had been moved to the mental health unit, both at New Castle CF.

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak continue to fundraise for their Housing & Resource Centre, which is now functioning but needs a privacy fence.

The Sundiata Jawanza freedom campaign are still requesting that people write letters in support of his parole application, with a deadline of May 19, 2025. An upcoming "Unchain Sundiata Jawanza - Free 'Em All!" letter-writing event is planned for April 15th, both in-person in Pittsburgh and remotely through zoom.

A fundraiser event for Lucasville Uprising prisoner Greg Curry, featuring house DJs, art by Lucasville prisoners, and a call from Greg himself, was held in Detroit at the end of March. More updates about Greg's freedom campaign can be found at his support team's instagram.

Bloomington ABC are holding an event on Sunday April 6th to help form new support networks for queer prisoners.

The Final Straw Radio recently interviewed Ohio prisoner Jay Ward about a hunger strike he was taking part in. You can contact Jay at:

James Ward A517461
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Mail Processing Center (OMPC)
884 Coitsville-Hubbard Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44505

The new prisoner support formation UPROAR has organized a number of phone zaps supporting Kevin "Rashid" Johnson and other prisoners at Red Onion State Prison in Virginia. You can keep up with them at their instagram or through their contact form here.

Rashid himself recently published a new interview on the 2016 prison strikes, as well as articles on the racial double standard in charges against abusive prison guards, the role of rural Virginia prisons in propping up local economies, and the use of attack dogs in the Virginia prison system.

Fight Over Death Penalty Continues

March saw a notable spike in executions across the US. The scheduled execution of David Wood in Texas was blocked by a